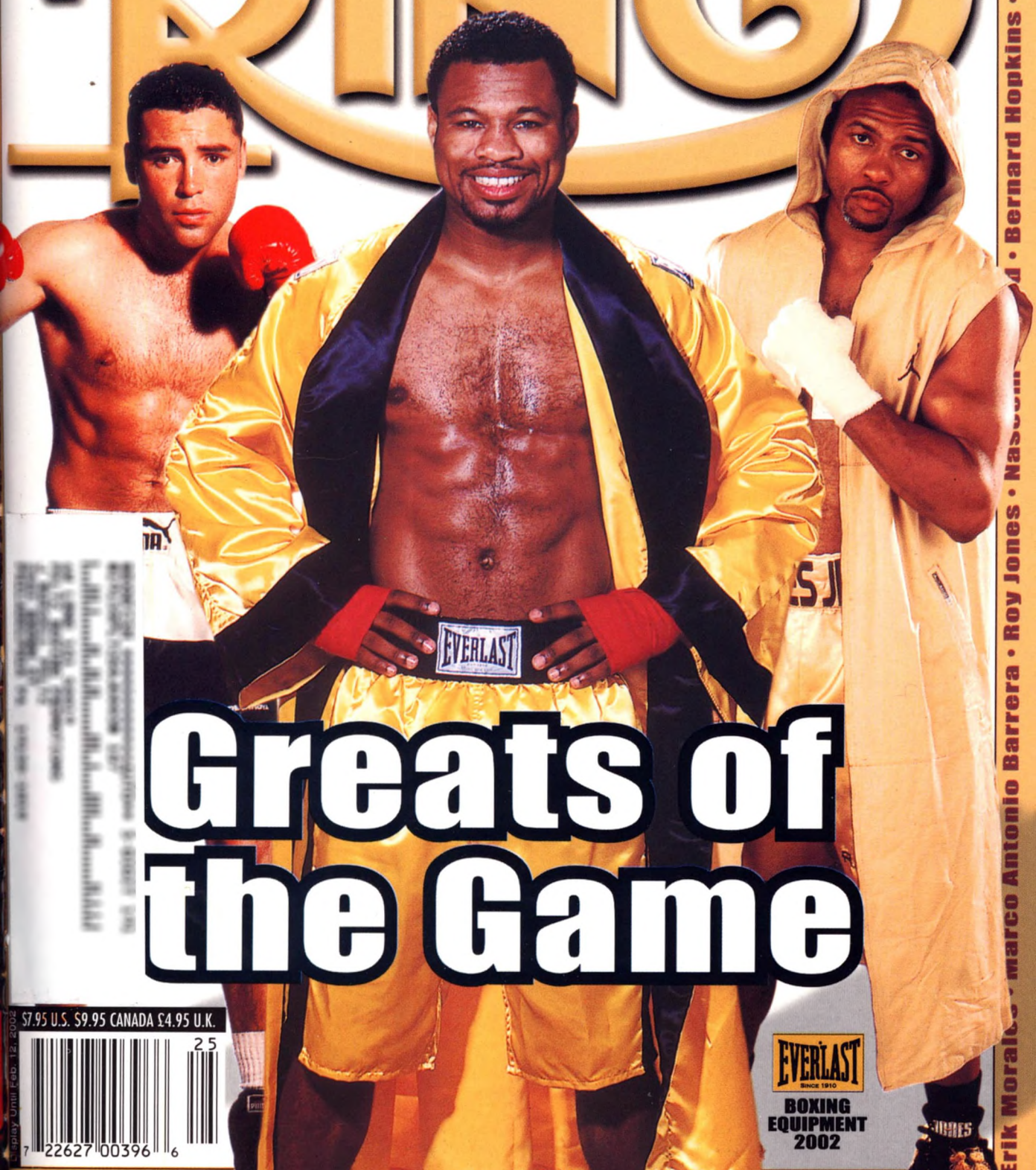
Mike Tyson • Felix Trinidad • Roy Jones • Shane Mosley • Oscar D… •

COLLECTOR'S SPECIAL!

ANNUAL 2002 EDITION

The RING®



Greats of the Game

Erik Morales • Marco Antonio Barrera • Roy Jones • Nas… • Bernard Hopkins • Floyd M…

$7.95 U.S. $9.95 CANADA £4.95 U.K.

25

7 22627 00396 6

Display Until Feb. 12, 2002

EVERLAST SINCE 1910

BOXING EQUIPMENT 2002

Boxing Apparel

BLOWOUT!

We're clearing our warehouse of the remainder of our boxing merchandise. With the prices slashed, what's left of our inventory will move fast, so order now! (Please order only from remaining sizes)

THE RING CREW NECK SWEAT SHIRT: 90% cotton/10% polyester. Extra full cut, body side panels, and set-in sleeves with *The Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline embroidered in three colors on the left front chest. $29.95
Black = S

THE RING BASEBALL CAP: Constructed of 100% cotton, this cap features *The Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline embroidered on the front panel. The adjustable cotton strap-back allows for a custom fit. Reduced to $9.95.
Black = One size fits all

THE RING BASEBALL JERSEY: This 100% cotton, button down jersey features an embroidered three-color—red, black, & gold—*Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline. Reduced to $24.95.
Red Trim = L, XL

THE RING T-SHIRT: This 100% pre-shrunk cotton T features an embroidered three-color *Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline. Reduced to $12.95.
Black = S
White = S

THE RING TANK TOP: 100% pre-shrunk cotton includes an embroidered three-color *Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline. Reduced to $12.95
Black = M
White = S

THE RING SATIN JACKET: Features 60,000-stitch embroidered replica of *The Ring* logo on the back and a smaller embroidered logo on the front. Gold-striped cuffs and bottom. Reduced to $99.95
Black = S

KO HOODED SWEAT SHIRT: Durable 50% cotton/50% polyester blend features the *KO* magazine logo. Reduced to $24.95
Blue = S, L, M, XL

KO T-SHIRT: This 50/50 cotton/poly blend makes a fashion statement with its bold *KO* logo. Reduced to $9.95
Red = S

WORLD BOXING CREW NECK SWEAT SHIRT: We thought Jim Bagg got the last of these sturdy 50/50 blend sweat shirts. We were wrong. Reduced to $22.95
Blue = S, L, XL

BOXING DESIGN T-SHIRT: This 100% pre-shrunk cotton offers a panarama of boxing action. Reduced to $11.95
White with Gray = S, M

***Yes,* I would like to order the item(s) indicated at right. I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my purchase.**

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

☐ MasterCard _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: _____/_____
Mo/Year

Signature: _____

PLEASE NOTE: STOCK AVAILABLE ON SIZES AND STYLES LISTED ABOVE ONLY

PRODUCT	COLOR	SIZE	AMOUNT	COST
Ring Sweat				
Ring Cap				
Ring BB Shirt				
Ring T-Shirt				
Ring Tank				
Ring Satin				
KO Sweat				
KO T-Shirt				
World Sweat				
Boxing Design T				
			Sub-total	
			Shipping & Handling	
			TOTAL ENCLOSED	

SHIPPING & HANDLING: For orders from within the United States add $3 for each item ordered. For orders outside the United States, add $7 for each item ordered. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Foreign orders: International money orders in U.S. funds only.

SEND YOUR ORDERS TO:

London Publishing Co.
Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

5435/01-29/4c

Your hand will feel the difference.

Your fingers will feel the difference.

Your opponent, he'll feel the difference too.

Introducing the new Everlast Professional Championship Glove.

Is it a boxer's glove? Or is it a puncher's glove? Actually it's both. You see, we've redesigned our glove with the finest leather to conform perfectly with your hand. They not only protect you, but make sure you deliver the effectiveness of your punches. Even better, they're evenly padded so you get the best of both worlds. And your opponent, well, he'll get something too.

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

To order a catalog, call 1-800-221-8777 or visit everlast.com

Choice of Champions®

The RING ANNUAL

Greats of the Game

CONTENTS

6 **EDITOR'S NOTE,** *by Nigel Collins*
Celebrating The Modern Masters Of The Sweet Science

8 **MIKE TYSON**
The Controversial And Captivating Former Heavyweight King

18 **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
Boxing's Ultra-Marketable "Golden Boy"

28 **SHANE MOSLEY**
The "Sugar"-Sweet Pound-For-Pound King

38 **ROY JONES**
Arguably The Most Talented Fighter Ever

48 **FELIX TRINIDAD**
Puerto Rico's Powerpunching Icon

58 **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
The Fight Game's Brash And Flashy "Pretty Boy"

68 **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico's Versatile Featherweight Ruler

78 **BERNARD HOPKINS**
"The Executioner" From The Mean Streets Of Philadelphia

88 **HASIM RAHMAN**
The "Rock"-Solid Heavyweight Champion Of The World

98 **NASEEM HAMED**
England's "Prince" Of Narcissism And Knockouts

108 **ERIK MORALES**
The Undefeated And Always-Exciting Mexican Warrior

118 **FERNANDO VARGAS**
Boxing's "Ferociously" Popular 154-Pound Gladiator

128 **THE GREATS OF TOMORROW**
A Look At Boxing's Up-And-Coming Superstars

130 **THE GREATEST OF ALL-TIME**
A Pinup Of The Legendary Muhammad Ali

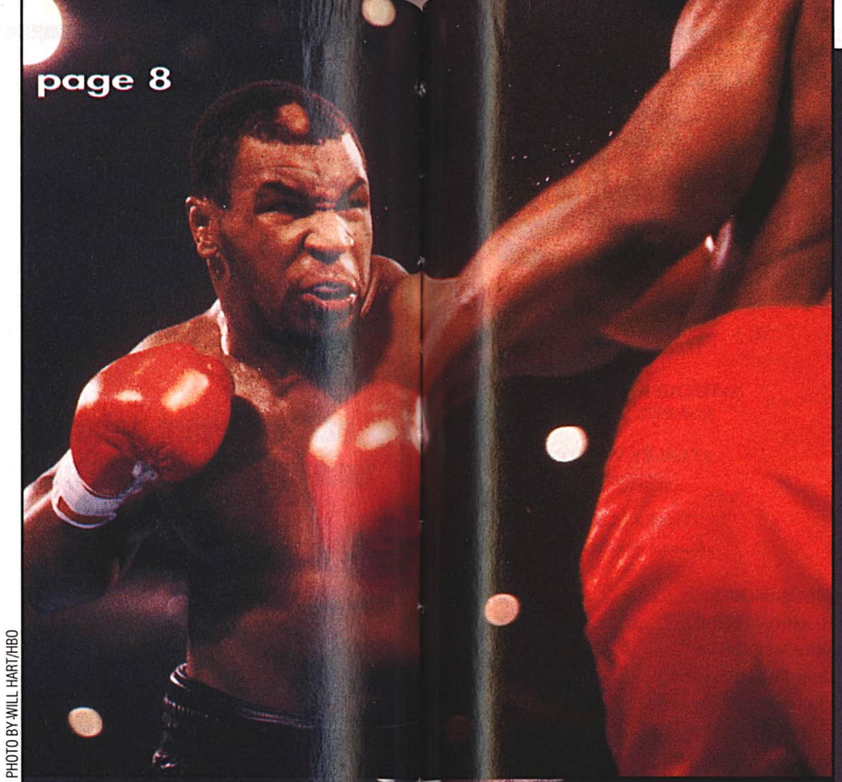


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO

Cover: Shane Mosley by Mark W. Hill
Oscar De La Hoya by Richard Corman/HBO
Roy Jones by Craig Blankenhorn/HBO
Cover Design: Walt Schmidt

EDITOR'S NOTE

Old-timers never tire of telling us that the fighters of today aren't worth a damn compared to the heroes of yesteryear. You've heard it all before: Jack Dempsey ate guys like Mike Tyson for breakfast. Billy Conn would have toyed with Roy Jones. Marco Antonio Barrera wouldn't have been able to lay a glove on Willie Pep. Blah, blah, blah.

Generally, people tend to think that the fighters who were on top during the years when they were in their own primes were the best of all-time. Fans from the World War II generation believe Joe Louis was the greatest heavyweight ever, while the Baby Boomers go for Muhammad Ali. It works the same way with popular music. As a rule, Louis fans love Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, while Ali devotees prefer Jimi Hendrix and The Beatles.

The truth of the matter, however, is that there have been great fighters (and musicians) in every era, including the current one. And it is the phenomenal fighters of today to which this issue of THE RING ANNUAL is dedicated.

When you think about it, we're exceedingly fortunate to be enjoying a period populated with so many fabulous fighters. In fact, it was something of a struggle to narrow the field to 12, especially when you consider that fighters such as Lennox Lewis, Dariusz Michalczewski, Tim Austin, Ricardo Lopez, and many other outstanding champions and contenders didn't make the cut.

There has been no attempt to rank the 12 fighters selected—Hasim Rahman, Mike Tyson, Roy Jones, Felix Trinidad, Bernard Hopkins, Oscar De La Hoya, Fernando Vargas, Shane Mosley, Floyd Mayweather, Marco Antonio Barrera, Naseem Hamed, and Erik Morales. They are all superstars in their own right, and are afforded equal treatment.

Each fighter is given a nine-page section, consisting of a thumbnail biography, a detailed account of their 10 greatest fights, a complete fight-by-fight record of their professional career, and an assortment of quotes, both by and about the fighter in question. Each segment is illustrated by the work of the finest fight photographers in the business, including a full-page pinup of each superstar, suitable for framing.

While we have attempted to give a balanced view of each fighter, this is a celebration, not a critique. We have accentuated the positive, which was easy, because there's an abundance of wonderful talent to emphasize. From the artistry of Jones and Mosley to the crushing power of Rahman and Tyson, the fighters featured are all candidates for eventual Hall of Fame honors.

The career of a prize fighter is relatively brief, his time at the top fleeting. It is, therefore, vital to appreciate and cherish them while we can. And for the fighters between these pages, the time is now. But thanks to this collector's edition of THE RING ANNUAL, we will always be able to look back at the current greats of the game and enjoy them in all their glory.

Nigel Collins

Volume 81, No. 2 **Annual 2002**

The RING

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
1888-1972 Founder

STANLEY WESTON
Publisher

STUART M. SAKS
Assistant Vice President

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Nigel Collins
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Eric Raskin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Joseph Santoliquito
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS ..... Joseph Kalman
Greg Stevens
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
IMAGING DIRECTOR ..... Mark W. Hill
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR WRITER ..... William Dettloff

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Rose Ann Adolfi

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121
(815) 734-1212

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 81, No. 2 (Annual 2002), is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $7.95 ($9.95 in Canada, £4.95 in U.K.). Subscription price for 12 issues $59.64 in the U.S., $69.24 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2001 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

Who better to make a shoe that fits like a glove.

Introducing the new Everlast Professional Boxing Shoe.

Ask any trainer and they'll tell you the importance of footwork. And no one delivers more of what you need in a boxing shoe than Everlast. Our Flexible HX Technology was engineered to give you the perfect combination of support and agility. So get your hands on a pair today -- either in mid or high-top style. And before you know it, you'll be dancing all over your competition.

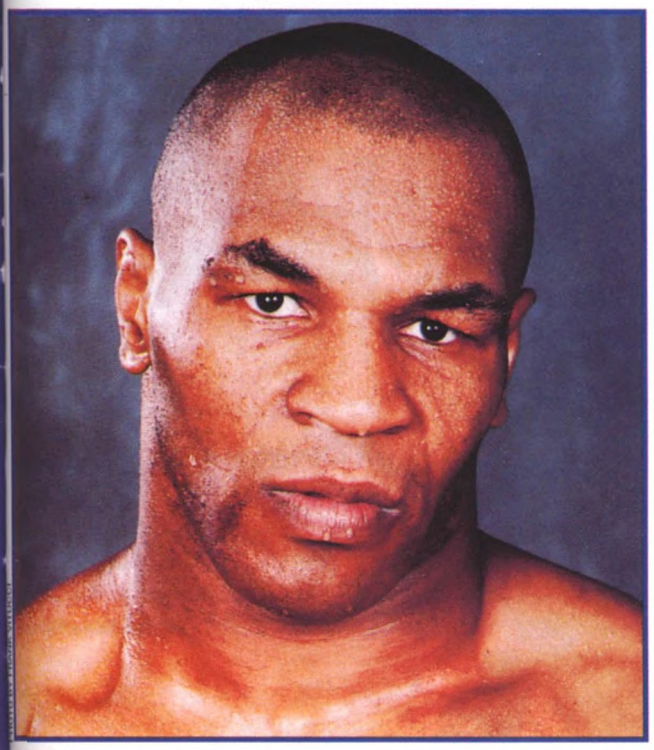
EVERLAST
BOXING EQUIPMENT
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

To order a catalog, call 1-800-221-8777 or visit everlast.com

Choice of Champions®

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

MIKE TYSON



Birthdate: June 30, 1966

Birthplace: Brooklyn, New York

Residence: Catskill, New York

Weight Class: Heavyweight

Height: 5'11½"

Reach: 71"

Professional Record: 48-3 (42) with 2 no-contests

World Titles: WBC heavyweight (November 22, 1986-February 11, 1990; March 16, 1996-November 9, 1996), WBA heavyweight (March 7, 1987-February 11, 1990; September 7, 1996-November 9, 1996), World/IBF heavyweight (August 1, 1987-February 11, 1990)

Handlers: Shelly Finkel, adviser; Tommy Brooks, trainer

Background: Former juvenile delinquent captivated fans with a series of devastating knockouts that resulted in him becoming WBC heavyweight champion after less than two years in the pro ranks. Unified heavyweight title and became a worldwide celebrity before losing the crown to Buster Douglas in the biggest upset in heavyweight history. Convicted of rape in 1991 and sentenced to six years in prison. Paroled after serving three years. Regained WBC title in March '96, added WBA belt that September, and lost title to Evander Holyfield via 11th-round knockout in November. Disqualified for biting Holyfield's ears in June '97 rematch, for which he was fined $3-million and had his boxing license revoked. Regained license in October '98, and won three of five comeback fights, with two no-contests, from '99 to '01.

Style: Straight-ahead slugger

Strengths: Punching power, intimidation, hand speed, chin

Weaknesses: Lack of mental toughness, loads up on punches, inadequate upper body movement, ring wear

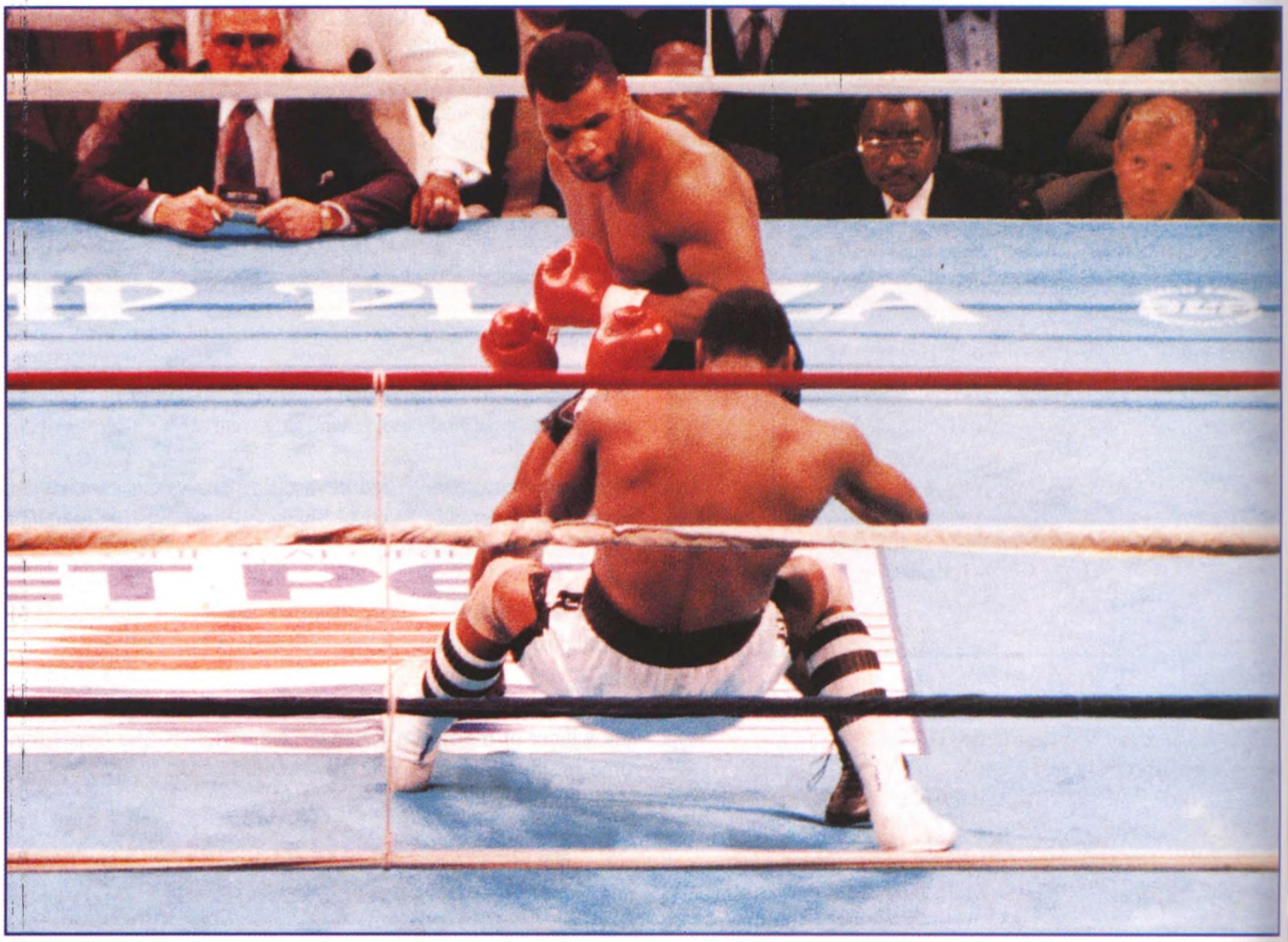
Best Performance: Scored devastating one-round knockout of previously undefeated Michael Spinks on June 27, 1988, to claim the linear heavyweight title.

Worst Performance: Sunk to a new low with monstrous third-round disqualification vs. Holyfield on June 28, 1997.

Future: As the WBC's mandatory challenger, should get a shot at the winner of the Hasim Rahman-Lennox Lewis title fight sometime in 2002. A match with Lewis could be the highest-grossing fight in boxing history.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	C+
Power	A+
Defense	C+
Ring Generalship	B
Experience	A+
Quality of Opposition	B
Chin	A-
Stamina	C+
Overall Grade	B

MIKE TYSON'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS



Tyson crushes Spinks in 91 seconds

1 KO 1 Michael Spinks, June 27, 1988, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Tyson was on top of the world at this stage of his career. "Iron Mike" had his king (promoter Don King), his queen (actress Robin Givens), and a $22-million purse coming his way for fighting the only man with any dispute to Tyson's claim as "The Baddest Man On The Planet." Spinks was recognized at the time as linear heavyweight champ, but that reign ended after all of 91 seconds. Tyson destroyed Spinks, knocking down the former light heavyweight champ twice in the opening round. A lasting memory was Tyson's blunt right that sent Spinks crashing to the canvas for the second time, his legs quivering as referee Frank Cappuccino waved off the fight without even bothering to finish the count.

Four days after the bout, Tyson notified Bill Cayton that he was firing him as his manager, and shortly after that, trainer Kevin Rooney was issued his walking papers, too. But neither of their dismissals was as harsh as the one Tyson gave Spinks, sending the future Hall of Famer into immediate retirement.

2 KO 2 Trevor Berbick, November 22, 1986, Las Vegas, Nevada

Tyson has given fans quite a few unforgettable images, from sending Michael Spinks down, to putting his mouthpiece in backward in Tokyo, to digging his teeth into Evander Holyfield's ear. But perhaps the best of all was the Berbick knockout.

Who can forget Berbick, the WBC champ, wobbling and teetering all over the ring like a drunk after closing time? The finishing touch was a concussive left hook that caught Berbick just above the right eye. The blast carried such force that

Iron Mike's fists made Berbick punch drunk

Berbick stumbled and fell three times, before finally regaining his feet. By then, referee Mills Lane had seen enough and called a halt at 2:35 of the second round. At the tender age of 20 years 4 months 22 days, Tyson became the youngest fighter in boxing history to win a portion of the heavyweight title. How dominant was 5-1 favorite Tyson? The new heavyweight champion landed more punches (59) than Berbick threw (38).

3 W 12 Tony Tucker, August 1, 1987, Las Vegas

Though not one of Tyson's more dominant performances, this one ranks high because of its significance and because Tyson succeeded when forced to use more than just his punching power to win. He unified the heavyweight title with this victory over Tucker, who held the IBF belt vacated by Michael Spinks, and he used his boxing skills to do it.

The previously undefeated Tucker jolted Tyson with a surprising right uppercut 30 seconds into the bout that lifted Tyson off of his feet. Tyson, however, retaliated behind a steady jab and used superior defensive skills to win the fight by unanimous decision, getting the nod by scores of 119-111, 118-113, and 116-112. After the fight, Don King held a garish coronation, complete with Elizabethan garb. But there was trouble looming behind the king of the heavyweights, as managers Bill Cayton and Jimmy Jacobs had to pay off two parking lot attendants who sued Tyson following a scuffle a month before the Tucker fight. Tyson also bolted camp once, and he and trainer Kevin Rooney bickered frequently.

Tyson's right shaves Razor's chin

Tyson becomes the first to stop Holmes

clutching or grabbing Iron Mike, turning the bout into a hugfest. The hulking Englishman was pinned against the ropes in the third round, trying desperately to defend himself. He wasn't convincing enough for referee Mills Lane, who ended the fight at the 50-second mark of the round. The Bruno fight was the third of Tyson's comeback, following wins over Peter McNeeley and Buster Mathis Jr. In those three contests, Tyson earned $65-million. Damned good work if you can get it.

4 KO 7 Razor Ruddock, March 18, 1991, Las Vegas

The Tyson-Ruddock winner was scheduled to face new undisputed heavyweight champ Evander Holyfield, who had taken the title from James "Buster" Douglas five months earlier. Though this fight turned out to have one of the most controversial endings of Tyson's career, it was also an excellent, exciting performance against a decidedly dangerous foe.

The bout was an all-out slugfest, with Tyson flooring Ruddock in the second and third rounds, and Razor hurting Tyson late in the sixth. Intent on finishing matters in the seventh, Tyson punished Ruddock with a series of head shots. Referee Richard Steele jumped in to stop the fight, awarding it to Tyson at the 2:22 mark, but many in attendance thought the stoppage was unwarranted. All three judges had Tyson up, 59-53, at the time of the stoppage. The Ruddock fight was Tyson's last on HBO, and also set up a rematch, which Tyson dominated on his way to a unanimous decision. The Holyfield fight, unfortunately, would have to wait.

5 KO 3 Frank Bruno, March 16, 1996, Las Vegas

When Tyson finished his three-year prison stint, nobody was quite sure whether Iron Mike would be able to shake the rust and get back to the top. The rematch with Bruno (Tyson had dusted him in five rounds during his first reign as champion) suggested that he just might. It was as close as Tyson has come since being incarcerated to approximating the Tyson of old. The win was also historically significant because Bruno came in as the WBC titleholder, and Tyson left as only the sixth heavyweight to capture a piece of the title twice.

Bruno, visibly scared of Tyson, couldn't take a step without

6 KO 4 Larry Holmes, January 22, 1988, Atlantic City

In his 50 fights that came before this one, and in his 23 fights since, Holmes was never knocked out. Against Tyson, however, the all-time great ex-champ got to experience the feeling of being completely manhandled, and for the only time in his career, he was beaten inside the distance.

There were some factors, however, that keep this victory out of Tyson's top five. For one, "The Easton Assassin" had not fought in 21 months leading up to the fight, and the rust was apparent. So was the age difference. Tyson plowed rights and

The champ gains revenge against Biggs

lefts into the paunchy 38-year-old. Battered and fatigued, Holmes became a human target for Tyson's missiles in the fourth. After Holmes was dropped twice, the crowd implored referee Joe Cortez to stop the fight. Holmes still managed to get up, only to be greeted by three looping rights from Tyson that spelled the end for the faded veteran at 2:55 of the fourth.

7 KO 7 Tyrell Biggs, October 16, 1987, Atlantic City

Tyson got revenge on Biggs, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist who snubbed a young Iron Mike at the '84 Olympic Trials. At the start, Biggs created a blueprint for how to beat Tyson, opening with a steady jab and good movement. But the undefeated challenger could only keep that up for about two minutes, and Tyson soon wore Biggs down. By the third round, Tyson had the fight under control, able to end it at any time. Instead, Tyson prolonged the punishment, banging away at Biggs for four more rounds. Tyson finally slammed a left hook into Biggs, sending him to the canvas for the first time in the seventh. Tyson then zinged home two more hooks, causing referee Tony Orlando to step in and stop the bout at 2:59 of the round.

"I wanted him to remember it for a long time," explained Tyson afterward, referring to the punishment he inflicted on Biggs. "He doesn't show any class as a professional boxer, so I made him pay for his actions with his health."

8 KO 6 Pinklon Thomas, May 30, 1987, Las Vegas

This rates among Tyson's best for its sheer savagery. At one time in the mid-'80s, Thomas was considered the heavyweight of the future. But a loss to Trevor Berbick and a battle with heroin addiction caused many experts to believe the former WBC champion was shot at age 29. Nevertheless, Thomas made the fight interesting in the early rounds, withstanding a Tyson first-round bombardment. Using his left jab, Thomas stayed even with Iron Mike until the sixth, when Tyson exploded a left to Thomas' jaw that sent the challenger reeling. The champ attacked the stunned and defenseless Thomas with 16 unanswered blows, perhaps the most devastating assault in Tyson's career, forcing Thomas to the canvas. Referee Carlos Padilla stopped the fight at 2:00 of the round, when he noticed Thomas' trainer, the legendary Angelo Dundee, entering the ring as Thomas struggled to stand.

9 KO 1 Carl Williams, July 21, 1989, Atlantic City

The Williams fight will be remembered as Tyson's last great blowout while still at the height of his powers. "The Truth" was big, glib, and, based on a good performance against then-champion Larry Holmes on national TV four years earlier, considered legitimate. Williams' trainer, Carmen Graziano, even predicted that by the third round, "Carl will be in control." But unfortunately for Williams, Tyson never let him get anywhere near the third round.

Coming off a knockout of Frank Bruno, Tyson made easy work of Williams, slamming a short left hook into his jaw and dropping the challenger. Rising unsteadily, Williams failed to respond to referee Randy Neumann's queries, prompting Neumann to call a stoppage at 1:33 of the first round. Disgruntled fans booed the ref's decision, but for Tyson, it was onward and upward—apparently to a date with Evander Holyfield, the former undisputed cruiserweight champion. Don King, however, opted to take an easy defense first, against a fellow by the name of Buster Douglas. That was one decision that would ultimately hurt Tyson a lot more than The Truth.

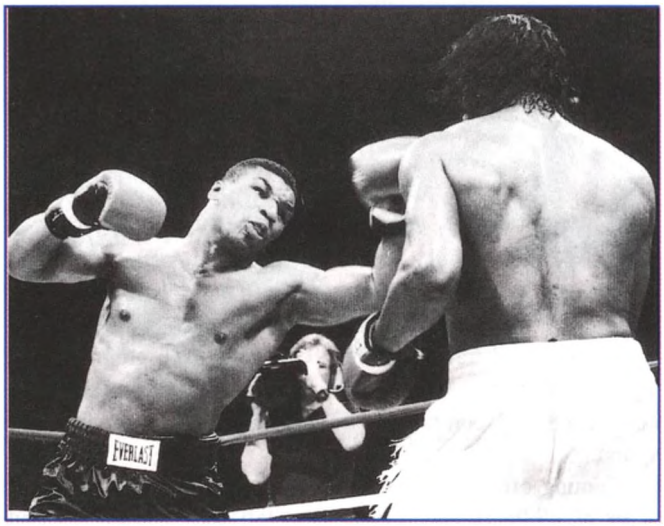
Williams discovers the truth about Tyson's fists

10 W 10 Mitch Green, May 20, 1986, New York, New York

As bizarre and colorful a character as Tyson is, Green may have been more bizarre and colorful. "Blood" was a former street gang member and four-time New York Golden Gloves winner. He also had an ability to get on Tyson's nerves. Iron Mike quickly showed him what a bad idea that was. Over the course of 10 rounds, Tyson took his anger out on Green, and knocked his rival's mouthpiece into the crowd twice. Green did gain a small moral victory by being the first opponent Tyson failed to knock down, but in every other sense, victory was Tyson's. He won by scores of 9-1 (twice) and 8-2.

"This is my best win ever," said Tyson after his 21st fight.

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF MIKE TYSON



Mitch Green took Tyson's best shots

1985

March 6	Hector Mercedes, Albany, NY	KO 1
April 10	Trenton Singleton, Albany	KO 1
May 23	Don Halpin, Albany	KO 4
June 20	Rick Spain, Atlantic City	KO 1
July 11	John Alderson, Atlantic City	KO 2
July 17	Larry Sims, Poughkeepsie, NY	KO 3
Aug. 15	Lorenzo Canady, Atlantic City	KO 1
Sept. 5	Michael Johnson, Atlantic City	KO 1
Oct. 9	Donnie Long, Atlantic City	KO 1
Oct. 25	Robert Colay, Atlantic City	KO 1
Nov. 1	Sterling Benjamin, Latham, NY	KO 1
Nov. 13	Eddie Richardson, Houston, TX	KO 1
Nov. 22	Conroy Nelson, Latham	KO 2
Dec. 6	Sammy Scaff, New York City	KO 1
Dec. 27	Mark Young, Albany	KO 1

1986

Jan. 11	Dave Jaco, Albany	KO 1
Jan. 24	Mike Jameson, Atlantic City	KO 5
Feb. 16	Jesse Ferguson, Troy, NY	KO 6
March 10	Steve Zouski, Uniondale, NY	KO 3
May 3	James Tillis, Glens Falls, NY	W 10
May 20	Mitch Green, New York City	W 10
June 13	Reggie Gross, New York City	KO 1
June 28	William Hosea, Troy	KO 1
July 11	Lorenzo Boyd, Swan Lake, NY	KO 2
July 26	Marvis Frazier, Glens Falls	KO 1
Aug. 17	Jose Ribalta, Atlantic City	KO 10
Sept. 6	Alfonzo Ratliff, Las Vegas	KO 2
Nov. 22	Trevor Berbick, Las Vegas	KO 2
	(Wins WBC Heavyweight Title)	

1987

March 7	Bonecrusher Smith, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Retains WBC Heavyweight Title; Wins WBA Title)	
May 30	Pinklon Thomas, Las Vegas	KO 6
	(Retains WBC & WBA Heavyweight Titles)	
Aug. 1	Tony Tucker, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Unifies Heavyweight Title)	
Oct. 16	Tyrell Biggs, Atlantic City	KO 7
	(Retains Unified Heavyweight Title)	

1988

Jan. 22	Larry Holmes, Atlantic City	KO 4
	(Retains Unified Heavyweight Title)	
March 21	Tony Tubbs, Tokyo	KO 2
	(Retains WBC & WBA Heavyweight Titles)	
June 27	Michael Spinks, Atlantic City	KO 1
	(Retains Unified Heavyweight Title)	

1989

Feb. 25	Frank Bruno, Las Vegas	KO 5
	(Retains Unified Heavyweight Title)	
July 21	Carl Williams, Atlantic City	KO 1
	(Retains Unified Heavyweight Title)	

Pinklon Thomas eats an uppercut

1990

Feb. 11	Buster Douglas, Tokyo *(Loses Unified Heavyweight Title)*	KO by 10
June 16	Henry Tillman, Las Vegas	KO 1
Dec. 8	Alex Stewart, Atlantic City	KO 1

1991

March 18	Razor Ruddock, Las Vegas	KO 7
June 28	Razor Ruddock, Las Vegas	W 12

1995

Aug. 19	Peter McNeeley, Las Vegas	W Disq. 1
Dec. 16	Buster Mathis Jr., Philadelphia	KO 3

1996

March 16	Frank Bruno, Las Vegas *(Regains WBC Heavyweight Title)*	KO 3
Sept. 7	Bruce Seldon, Las Vegas *(Regains WBA Heavyweight Title)*	KO 1
Nov. 9	Evander Holyfield, Las Vegas *(Loses WBA Heavyweight Title)*	KO by 11

1997

June 28	Evander Holyfield, Las Vegas *(For WBA Heavyweight Title)*	L Disq. 3

1999

Jan. 16	Frans Botha, Las Vegas	KO 5

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Frank Bruno was helpless against Tyson's charge

Oct. 23	Orlin Norris, Las Vegas	No-Contest 1

2000

Jan. 29	Julius Francis, Manchester, England	KO 2
June 24	Lou Savarese, Glasgow, Scotland	KO 1
Oct. 20	Andrew Golota, Detroit	No-Contest 3

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	NO-CONTEST	KO
53	48	3	2	43

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Andrew Golota feels Tyson's wrath

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Givens blindsides Iron Mike on national TV

"I was throwing hydrogen bombs. Every punch had murderous intentions."

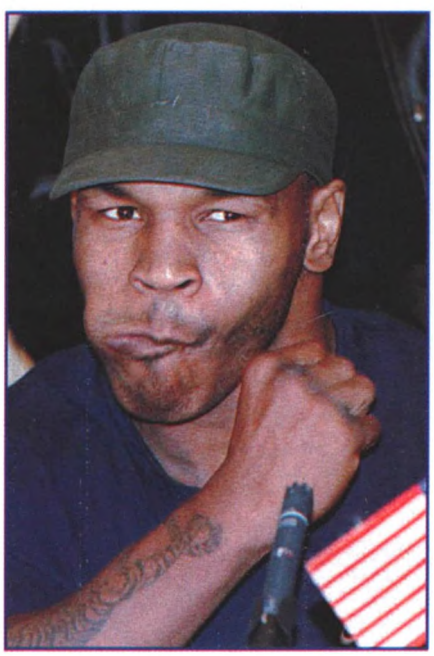
—1986, Tyson after the Trevor Berbick victory

"Tony Tubbs has become a fat bug on the windshield of Mike Tyson's career."

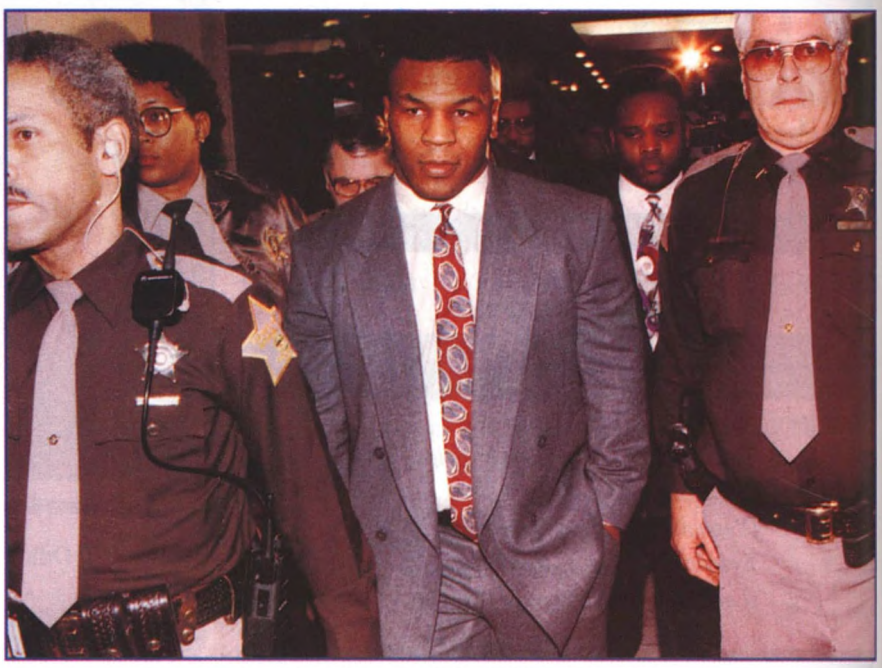
—1988, HBO analyst Larry Merchant after Tyson vanquished Tubbs in two rounds

"Torture ... pure hell ... worse than anything I could possibly imagine. I've become afraid of him. He shakes. He pushes. He swings. Michael is a manic-depressive. Michael is intimidating, to say the least. I think that there's a time when he cannot control his temper, and that's frightening."

—1988, Robin Givens, with Tyson seated next to her, to 20/20*'s Barbara Walters on what their marriage was like*



"Boxing sucks"



Tyson hated the world after being incarcerated

"Boxing sucks."

—1991, Mike Tyson during the time he was under indictment for rape

"Now, Mike Tyson hates the world. That's just a fact. I hate everybody. I know they say, 'No, you can't hate the world, don't be bitter.' But I just hate everybody."

—1993, Tyson during his prison term for rape

"I'd rather be Tyson's first opponent after he gets out than his first date."

—1995, Ed Schuyler, boxing writer for the Associated Press

"I'm the best ever, the most brutal, vicious champion there has ever been. No one can stop me. I'm Sonny Liston. I'm Jack Dempsey. There is no one like me. I'm from their cloth. I'm ferocious."

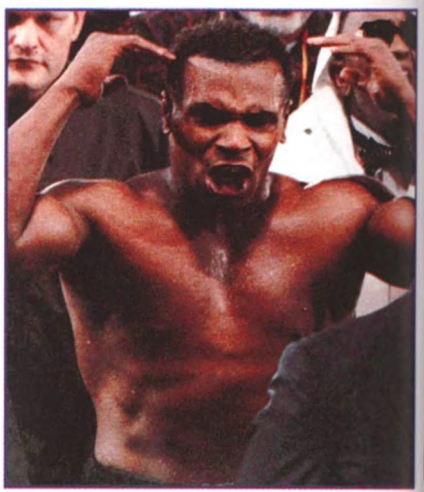
—2000, Tyson ranting after knocking out Lou Savarese

"I want your heart. I want to eat your children. Praise be to Allah."

—2000, Tyson directing comments at Lennox Lewis after the Savarese fight

"HBO will let Lewis fight on Showtime when hell freezes over, and Showtime will let Tyson fight on HBO when pork chops are growing on the palm trees in Tel Aviv."

—2000, Showtime Championship Boxing *Executive Producer Jay Larkin on the possibility of Tyson fighting Lewis* ■



Iron Mike wants Lewis' children for dinner

We give new meaning to the term boxing match.

Introducing the Everlast Training Boxing Combinations.
Not since the creation of the one-two-punch, has boxing seen a combination like this. Introducing Everlast Training Boxing Combinations. From gloves to headgear and speed bags to shorts, everything's coordinated to give you a little extra razzle-dazzle. With so many choices, the only hard part is picking the color that matches your attitude.

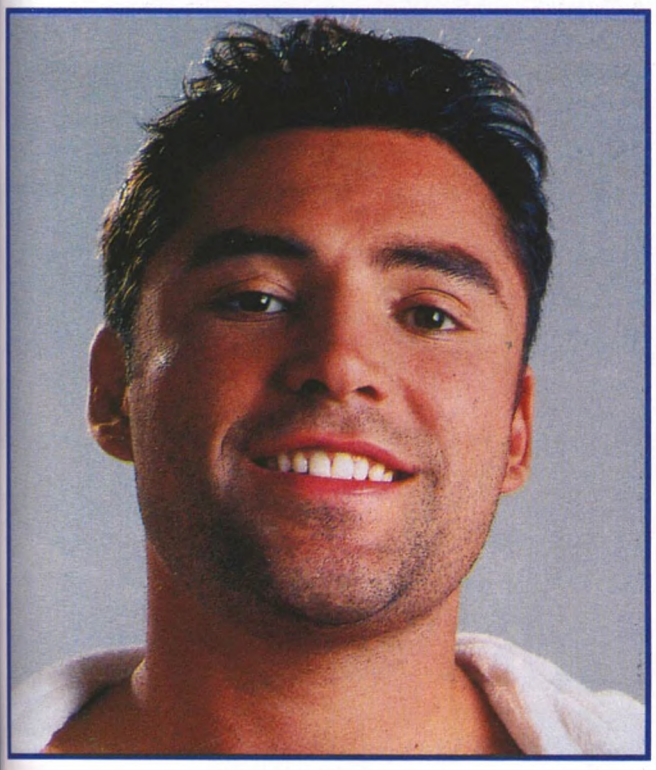
BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

To order a catalog, call 1-800-221-8777 or visit everlast.com

Choice of Champions®

PHOTO BY RICHARD CORMAN/HBO

Oscar De La Hoya



Birthdate: February 4, 1973

Birthplace: Los Angeles, California

Residence: Montebello, California

Weight Class: Junior Middleweight

Height: 5'10½"

Reach: 73"

Professional Record: 34-2 (27)

World Titles: IBF lightweight (May 6, 1995-August 1, 1995), WBC super lightweight (June 7, 1996-April 12, 1997), WBC welterweight (April 12, 1997-September 18, 1999; March 3, 2000-June 17, 2000), WBC super welterweight (June 23, 2001-present)

Handlers: Jerry Perenchio, promoter; Floyd Mayweather Sr., trainer

Background: Began boxing at age six under the guidance of his father, Joel. Exceptional amateur career, which included recognition as USA Boxing's 1991 Boxer of the Year, was capped off with a gold medal at the '92 Olympics in Barcelona. Turned pro in November '92 and won his first 31 fights before suffering a controversial decision defeat to Felix Trinidad in September '99. Win over Francisco Castillejo in June '01 made him only the sixth fighter to claim world titles in four different weight classes.

Style: Patient, well-schooled boxer-puncher

Strengths: Hand speed, left hook, jab, defense, big-fight experience

Weaknesses: Inconsistency, tendency to fade in late rounds, diminishing power

Best Performance: Crushed Rafael Ruelas in May '95, flooring him twice in the second round en route to winning first world title.

Worst Performance: After a brilliant start, ran the last few rounds against Trinidad and turned a lead on the scorecards into a close, controversial defeat.

Future: Penciled in for a December 8 date, probably against Russian mandatory challenger Roman Karmazin. Claims to want a huge fight with either Trinidad, Shane Mosley, or Fernando Vargas, but taking the Karmazin fight makes those claims seem dubious.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A
Power	B
Defense	A
Ring Generalship	A-
Experience	A+
Quality of Opposition	A+
Chin	A
Stamina	B+
Overall Grade	A-

OSCAR DE LA HOYA'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

De La Hoya celebrates career-best kayo of Ruelas

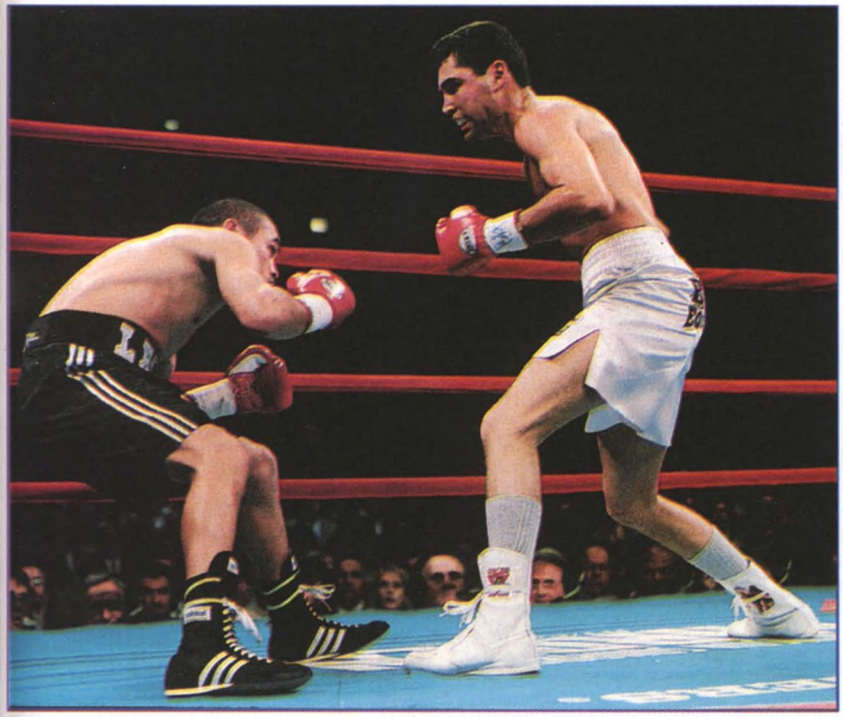
1 KO 2 Rafael Ruelas, May 6, 1995, Las Vegas, Nevada

Long before he was a four-division champion and boxing's number one non-heavyweight money-maker, there was a time when De La Hoya was an untested 22-year-old with no world titles and no pay-per-view superfights on his ledger. That all changed when he faced Ruelas, who had only been beaten once—controversially—in 44 previous fights. De La Hoya was trying to win his first world title, and he was trying to do it against a Mexican, the day after Cinco de Mayo, in front a large, heavily Hispanic pay-per-view audience.

For a kid in the first major fight of his career, De La Hoya didn't do too bad. A minute into the second round, he countered a Ruelas right hand with an explosive hook to the jaw, and down went the IBF lightweight champion. Moments later, a short right put Ruelas down again, and after less than five minutes of action, Ruelas was saved by referee Richard Steele as De La Hoya applied the finishing touches along the ropes. Until that point, "The Golden Boy" was a *potential* superstar; against Ruelas, a superstar was born.

2 KO 6 Genaro Hernandez, September 8, 1995, Las Vegas

Though this battle of friendly Los Angeles rivals is remembered for an injury suffered by Hernandez, it was an injury suffered by De La Hoya that told us more about The Golden Boy. We already knew he could injure his opponents, but how would he respond to adversity of his own, especially when he's in there in with a tough opponent like the previously undefeated Hernandez?



Leija gets planted at the Garden

In his first fight after blowing out Ruelas, De La Hoya cruised through the first round, but then hit a snag when he stood up for the start of round two and his back stiffened up. He was having problems with his left shoulder as well, but he persevered, showed defensive brilliance, and finally got his offense going. In the fourth, De La Hoya hurt Hernandez with a left uppercut. In the sixth, he used three consecutive uppercuts, one of which shattered "Chicanito's" nose into 20 pieces, to prompt him to surrender at the end of the round. Once again, De La Hoya dominated a supposedly dangerous fight—and showed that he had a stiff will to go with his stiff back.

3 KO 2 Jesse James Leija, December 15, 1995, New York, New York

This is a win that has looked better and better with the passage of time. Back in '95, De La Hoya's blowout win over 29-year-old former WBC super featherweight champ Leija appeared to be a case of a superstar catching a name fighter just as he was starting to fade. But Leija's resurgence over the last few years, which included lasting nine full rounds with Sugar Shane Mosley in '98, beating Ivan Robinson in '00, and exposing Hector Camacho Jr. in '01, has proved that he's still one tough Texan. De La Hoya destroying him in just six minutes stands up as a major statement.

With 16,000 fans on hand for De La Hoya's Madison Square Garden debut, The Golden Boy took his time and sized Leija up in the first round. Late in the second, he sent Leija to the canvas with a crushing left hook, and just before the bell, another hook had the same overpowering effect. At the end of the round, Leija's corner threw in the towel.

"He has a lot of power," Leija said in awe. "He should be a middleweight."

4 W 12 Ike Quartey, February 13, 1999, Las Vegas

Depending on how you look at it, this could be viewed as either De La Hoya's greatest night, or one of his worst. On one hand, Quartey is probably the best opponent he has beaten, and De La Hoya's memorable 12th-round rally proved what a passionate warrior there is lurking beneath the Golden Boy surface. On the other hand, many feel that despite that 12th-round rally, De La Hoya deserved to lose.

Both fighters were extremely cautious for the first five rounds, but the sixth round was a classic. De La Hoya put the unbeaten Quartey on the mat with a sudden left hook early in the round, but moments later, the California heartthrob found himself on his rump, courtesy of a counter left from Quartey. De La Hoya was clearly shaken, and it took him a few rounds to become offensive-minded again. But when he did, with the fight on the line in the 12th, he dropped the African with another left hook, and

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Quartey goes down from a left hook

De La Hoya catches Camacho with a right

unleashed an unforgettable barrage along the ropes that not many fighters would have survived. Quartey did, but lost the split decision by scores of 116-113, 116-112, and 114-115. It wasn't a clear-cut win for De La Hoya, but it was one of his greatest wins nevertheless.

5 KO 8 Wilfredo Rivera, December 6, 1997, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Rivera, one of the best fighters of recent years not to win a world title, has been beaten five times as a pro, and all five losses came against elite fighters. But one of those losses is different from the others. The two losses to Pernell Whitaker in '96 both came by close decision. Before Shane Mosley stopped him in the 10th round in '99, Rivera gave him hell for nine rounds. Before Fernando Vargas stopped him in '01, Rivera nearly knocked Vargas out. But the De La Hoya fight was different.

Rivera was never in the fight. He lost practically every round, got knocked down in the fourth, and was a bloody mess when the fight was stopped in the eighth. De La Hoya had everything working, from his jab, to his left uppercut, to his right cross, to his defense, which, according to CompuBox, permitted Rivera to land only 17 percent of his punches. It was a whitewash, and that's something no other opponent of Rivera's, before or since, can claim.

6 W 12 Hector Camacho, September 13, 1997, Las Vegas

There's nothing a promoter loves more than matching his star attraction against a big-name fighter who poses little or no threat. That's precisely what the 35-year-old Camacho was. His fifth-round knockout of a comebacking Sugar Ray Leonard six months earlier made the mismatch justifiable, as did his southpaw style, in light of De La Hoya's struggle to solve southpaw Pernell Whitaker earlier in the year.

But De La Hoya's goal wasn't just to beat Camacho, as everybody knew he would. It was to become the first fighter to knock "The Macho Man" out. And though he failed on that front, The Golden Boy fought a nearly perfect fight. He forced Camacho into survival mode with a left hook just 20 seconds into the contest, and while the veteran southpaw held incessantly, De La Hoya kept his focus, scored a knockdown in the 11th, and won by scores of 120-105, 120-106, and 118-108. Perhaps the most satisfying part for De La Hoya came after the fight, when a humbled Camacho said, "Oscar is the best I've ever fought." Coming from a guy who'd fought 'em all, that was high praise indeed.

7 L 12 Shane Mosley, June 17, 2000, Los Angeles, California

In all sports, there are good losses and bad losses. De La Hoya's loss to Felix Trinidad nine months earlier was a bad one, even though The Golden Boy may have deserved to win. His loss to hometown rival Mosley at the Staples Center, on the other hand, was a good one, even though De La Hoya clearly deserved to lose. First off, he didn't lose by much. And secondly, against arguably the best fighter in the world, De La Hoya never took a backward step. For those who think Mosley is the best fighter of his generation, this 12-round battle serves as proof that De La Hoya isn't far behind.

In fact, for the first six or seven rounds, he was ahead. De La Hoya jabbed beautifully, unfurled stinging combinations, and pulled out to a nearly insurmountable lead. But Mosley came alive when he needed to, taking over with speed as De La Hoya faded ever so slightly, sweeping the late rounds. It was clear going into the 12th that the final three minutes would determine the outcome, and The Golden Boy slugged with all his heart, only to be outslugged by the better man. Mosley took the split decision by scores of 116-112, 115-113, and 113-115, but De La Hoya, in a way, came out a winner as well.

8 KO 4 Julio Cesar Chavez, June 7, 1996, Las Vegas

On one side of the ring stood referee Joe Cortez, ringside doctor Flip Homansky, and Mexican legend Chavez. On the other stood De La Hoya, who was bidding to become the next Mexican (well, Mexican-American, anyway) legend. Cortez' arms waved in the air. It was

Bloody Chavez eats a jab

over. Needing only four rounds, De La Hoya had become the first to stop the great Chavez, and now he was the premier Latino fighter of the day.

So why isn't this among De La Hoya's two or three greatest victories? Because not much was really proven, except that Chavez, at age 34, had very little left, and that De La Hoya, 11 years his junior, packed a hard enough punch to rip open pre-existing cuts.

A pair of jabs opened up "The Lion Of Culiacan" midway through the opening round, and De La Hoya just kept patiently jabbing away as the blood flowed sickeningly. In the fourth, a left hand turned Chavez' nose into a mini-geyser, and the gorefest was called off at the 2:37 mark. It was, on paper, a tremendous win. But in reality, it wasn't the torch-passing event we had hoped for.

9 W 12 John-John Molina, February 18, 1995, Las Vegas

Even though he'd already picked himself up off the canvas twice, against Narciso Valenzuela and Giorgio Campanella, De La Hoya had still never really been in a tough fight. Boxing fans—not to mention his own handlers—needed to find out what The Golden Boy was made of before determining that he was ready for the likes of Ruelas, Hernandez, etc. The fight with Molina, a clever, dirty, two-time former champ on a five-year winning streak, definitely tested De La Hoya's toughness. And when it was over, Team De La Hoya saw what it needed to see to leap into the superfights.

The 29-year-old Molina, who turned out to have six good years left in him, suffered a rare knockdown when De La Hoya's left hook clipped him in the first round. That made the Puerto Rican realize he couldn't match De La Hoya for skill, so he turned it into a streetfight, holding, mauling, and rabbit-punching constantly. De La Hoya was plenty banged up at the end of 12 rounds, but he also had won convincingly, by scores of 117-110 and 116-111 (twice).

10 W 12 Pernell Whitaker, April 12, 1997, Las Vegas

Like the Quartey fight, some regard this as a low point for De La Hoya because an argument can be made that he didn't deserve to win. But like the Quartey fight, it was also a monumental achievement because an argument can be made that De La Hoya *did* deserve to win—against an all-time great who had never really been beaten.

Whitaker's left-handed, defensive style, which befuddled so many great fighters over the years, gave De La Hoya trouble as well, but The Golden Boy boxed intelligently and landed the more powerful blows. Though WBC welterweight champ Whitaker scored a flash knockdown in the ninth when De La Hoya's glove touched the canvas, De La Hoya finished strong, closing Whitaker's right eye and enjoying a big 12th round. Nearly everyone agreed the contest was close one way or the other, except for the judges, who had De La Hoya winning easily by scores of 115-111, and 116-110 (twice). Certainly, it wasn't that lopsided. But it was as well as anyone had ever done against "Sweet Pea" up to that point.

Molina gave "The Golden Boy" a long and uncomfortable night

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF OSCAR DE LA HOYA

Lamar Williams becomes De La Hoya's first victim

1992		
Nov. 23	Lamar Williams, Inglewood, CA	KO 1
Dec. 12	Cliff Hicks, Phoenix, AZ	KO 1

1993		
Jan. 3	Paris Alexander, Hollywood, CA	KO 2
Feb. 6	Curtis Strong, San Diego, CA	KO 4
March 13	Jeff Mayweather, Las Vegas	KO 4
April 6	Mike Grable, Rochester, NY	W 8
May 8	Frankie Avelar, Stateline, NV	KO 4
June 7	Troy Dorsey, Las Vegas	KO 1
Aug. 14	Renaldo Carter, Bay St Louis, MS	KO 6
Aug. 27	Angelo Nunez, Beverly Hills, CA	KO 4
Oct. 30	Narciso Valenzuela, Phoenix	KO 1

1994		
March 5	Jimmi Bredahl, Los Angeles	KO 10
May 27	Giorgio Campanella, Las Vegas	KO 3
July 29	Jorge Paez, Las Vegas	KO 2
Nov. 18	Carl Griffith, Las Vegas	KO 3
Dec. 10	John Avila, Los Angeles	KO 9

1995		
Feb. 18	John-John Molina, Las Vegas	W 12
May 6	Rafael Ruelas, Las Vegas *(Wins IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 2
Sept. 9	Genaro Hernandez, Las Vegas	KO 6
Dec. 15	Jesse James Leija, New York City	KO 2

1996		
Feb. 9	Darryl Tyson, Las Vegas	KO 2
June 7	Julio Cesar Chavez, Las Vegas *(Wins WBC Super Lightweight Title)*	KO 4

1997		
Jan. 18	Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Lightweight Title)*	W 12
April 12	Pernell Whitaker, Las Vegas *(Wins WBC Welterweight Title)*	W 12
June 14	David Kamau, San Antonio, TX *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 2

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

De La Hoya gives Jorge Paez the hook

De La Hoya reaches Genaro Hernandez with a left

Sept. 13	Hector Camacho, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	W 12
Dec. 6	Wilfredo Rivera, Atlantic City *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 8

1998

June 13	Patrick Charpentier, El Paso, TX *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 3
Sept. 18	Julio Cesar Chavez, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 8

1999

Feb. 13	Ike Quartey, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	W 12
May 22	Oba Carr, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 11
Sept. 18	Felix Trinidad, Las Vegas *(Loses WBC Welterweight Title)*	L 12

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

De La Hoya takes a 154-pound belt from Francisco Castillejo

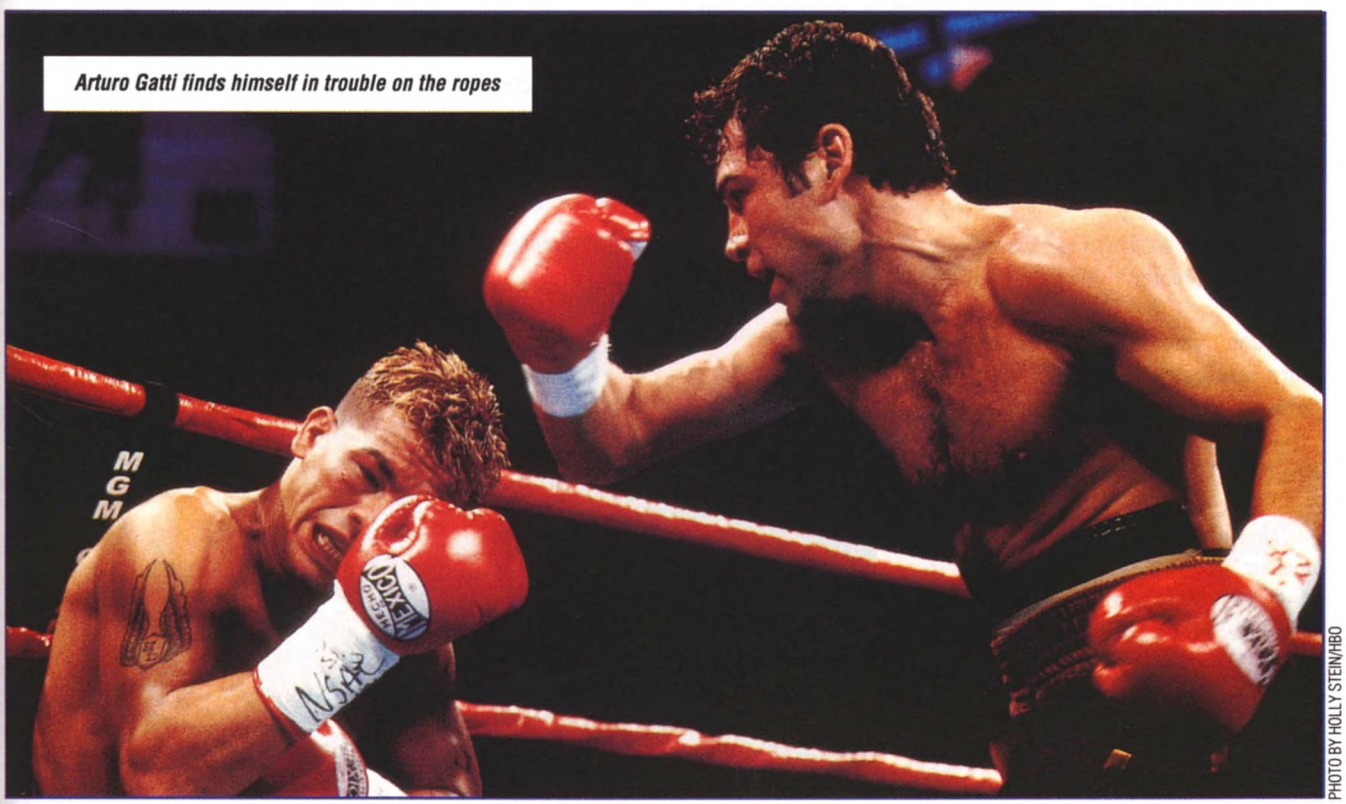
2000

Feb. 26	Derrell Coley, New York City *(Subsequently Awarded Vacant WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 7
June 17	Shane Mosley, Los Angeles *(Loses WBC Welterweight Title)*	L 12

2001

March 24	Arturo Gatti, Las Vegas	KO 5
June 23	Francisco Castillejo, Las Vegas *(Wins WBC Super Welterweight Title)*	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
36	34	2	0	27



Arturo Gatti finds himself in trouble on the ropes

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

MEMORABLE QUOTES

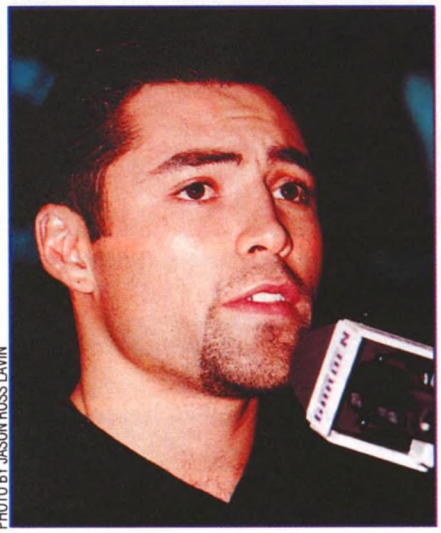


PHOTO BY JASON ROSS DAVIS

De La Hoya speaks his mind

"You should've seen me when I first got back from Barcelona. I wore it everywhere. In the shower, to bed with me. Wouldn't let nobody touch it or put it around their neck."

—1992, De La Hoya on his Olympic gold medal

"If I don't capture titles in six different divisions, I will feel like a complete failure."

—1994, De La Hoya, a junior lightweight, discussing his future

"I think golf is tougher than boxing, actually."

—1995, De La Hoya discussing one of his favorite hobbies

"I don't care about the IBF. If they're more interested in politics than good fights, to heck with them."

—1995, De La Hoya on the IBF stripping him of their lightweight title

"He was always a little snob, even as an amateur."

—1995, soon-to-be opponent Genaro Hernandez on De La Hoya

"[Mike Tyson] should go up front and blame himself for what he did, not blame anything else. It's like when I fought Pernell Whitaker, I blame myself for not having the right game plan. I didn't blame my trainer, the people around me. I blame myself for not fighting the way I was supposed to fight."

—1997, De La Hoya in the aftermath of Tyson's ear-biting incident with Evander Holyfield

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Oscar has to fight off the babes

"I have a good relationship with Bob Arum. He takes care of me very well … In the future, there's no plan or idea of leaving Bob Arum … If you're not with Bob Arum, you're not going to be promoted well."

—1998, De La Hoya on the promoter he would leave two years later

"Put it this way: I have a collection of Wonderbras."

—1998, De La Hoya, when asked whether women throw themselves at him

"It looks so perfect on TV, but there's a lot of stress. A lot of stress. I'm surprised I haven't lost my hair yet."

—2000, De La Hoya on being "The Golden Boy"

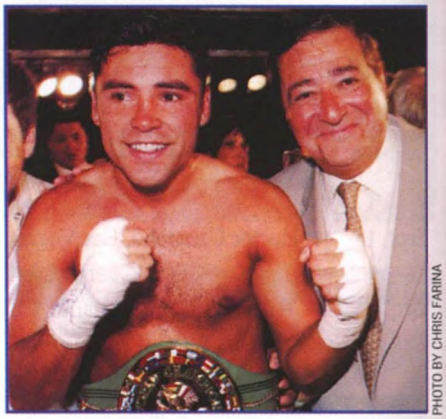


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

De La Hoya has always had plenty to say about Arum

"Don't blame me. Blame all the trainers I had. I won a lot of titles on natural talent."

—2001, De La Hoya on supposedly not reaching his potential until enlisting Floyd Mayweather Sr. as his trainer

"Arum's people hope that I lose because they can't see a Mexican above them, and also that he has defeated [in court] one of the biggest Jews to come out of Harvard."

—2001, De La Hoya on his former promoter, from whom he had just won promotional freedom ■

Will De La Hoya someday tell us to blame Mayweather?

Back Issues of

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

...1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe ... Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago ..., Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

...1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick ... Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, ... Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe- ... (color).

...1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand ... fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John ... Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

...1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He ... Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox ... The Ring Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

...1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. ... Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen ..., closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

...1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: ...-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, ... Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

...1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: ... Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of ... (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

...1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, ... Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

...1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat ... Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, ... (part II), Tom Molineaux.

...1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets ... Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, ... Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

...1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, ...-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

...1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The ... Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But ..." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos ..., Kostya Tszyu.

...1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For- ..." An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn- ...Clellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, ... II ... Robinson-Burley.

...1995 (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter ...kheeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, ... stop fights?

...1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike ..., You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III ... Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden ... *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

...1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man ...ough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul ..., Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard- ...

...1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. ... Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

...1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: ...-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, ...pion Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

...1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. ... Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, ... Brown.

...1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, ...mpic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, ... Muhammad.

...1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop ...'s March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior ..., Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

...1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: ...t It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson ... poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, ... of the game.

...1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: ... Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, The ...'s 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

...1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. ... Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

...1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La ...-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

...1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's ...opable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, ... Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

...1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: The Ring's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: The Ring's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Ortiz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Schmeling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Oct. 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

Feb. 2000: Who Is Roy Jones? A Revealing Look At Boxing's Pound-For-Pound Best. Plus: Tyson-Norris, Matty McCue, tactical blunders, best fights of the '90s.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed *Ring* Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Jan. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Trinidad's Destiny: Jones Is On His Mind ... But Vargas Is In His Face! Plus: Naseem Hamed, Tszyu-Judah, Evander Holyfield, Willie Bean, 20 greatest middleweights.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: *The Ring's* Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

March 2001 (108-Page Extra): Tyson! Forget About Retirement ... A Title Shot Awaits! Plus: Ayala-Tapia II, Audley Harrison, Chris Byrd, Kirk Johnson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Boone Kirkman, 12 most exciting rounds.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

May 2001 (108-Page Extra): Felix Trinidad—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Barrera-Hamed preview, Bernard Hopkins, Joey Archer.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Ring Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Oct. 2001: Trinidad vs. Hopkins: Middleweight Unification Superfight Analysis & Predictions. Plus: Emanuel Steward, Joe Calzaghe, Ali's opponents, Rahman & King.

Nov. 2001 (108-Page Extra): *The Ring* 100: Ranking The Best Fighters In The World. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Jesus Chavez, Hall of Fame (Sugar Ramos, Ismael Laguna), Luther Rawlings, 15-rounders.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

☐ Feb/93	☐ Jun/95	☐ Jul/97	☐ Oct/98	☐ Hol/99	☐ Jan/01
☐ Mar/93	☐ Jul/95	☐ Oct/97	☐ Nov/98	**All 12 $43**	☐ Feb/01
☐ Apr/93	☐ Oct/95	☐ Nov/97	**All 11 $40**		☐ Mar/01
☐ May/93	☐ Win/95	☐ Hol/97		☐ Jan/00	☐ Apr/01
☐ Aug/93	**All 6 $25**	**All 6 $25**	☐ Jan/99	☐ Feb/00	☐ May/01
All 5 $22			☐ Feb/99	☐ Mar/00	☐ Jun/01
	☐ Feb/96	☐ Jan/98	☐ Mar/99	☐ Apr/00	☐ Jul/01
☐ Apr/94	☐ May/96	☐ Feb/98	☐ Apr/99	☐ May/00	☐ Aug/01
☐ Aug/94	☐ Sep/96	☐ Mar/98	☐ May/99	☐ Jun/00	☐ Sep/01
☐ Oct/94	☐ Nov/96	☐ Apr/98	☐ Jun/99	☐ Jul/00	☐ Oct/01
☐ Dec/94	☐ Dec/96	☐ May/98	☐ July/99	☐ Aug/00	☐ Nov/01
All 4 $18	**All 5 $22**	☐ Jun/98	☐ Aug/99	☐ Sep/00	☐ Dec/01
		☐ Jul/98	☐ Sep/99	☐ Oct/00	**All 12 $43**
☐ Jan/95	☐ May/97	☐ Aug/98	☐ Oct/99	☐ Dec/00	
☐ May/95	☐ Jun/97	☐ Sep/98	☐ Dec/99	**All 11 $40**	

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

ONLY $5 EACH

Expiration Date: __/__ MO/YR

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

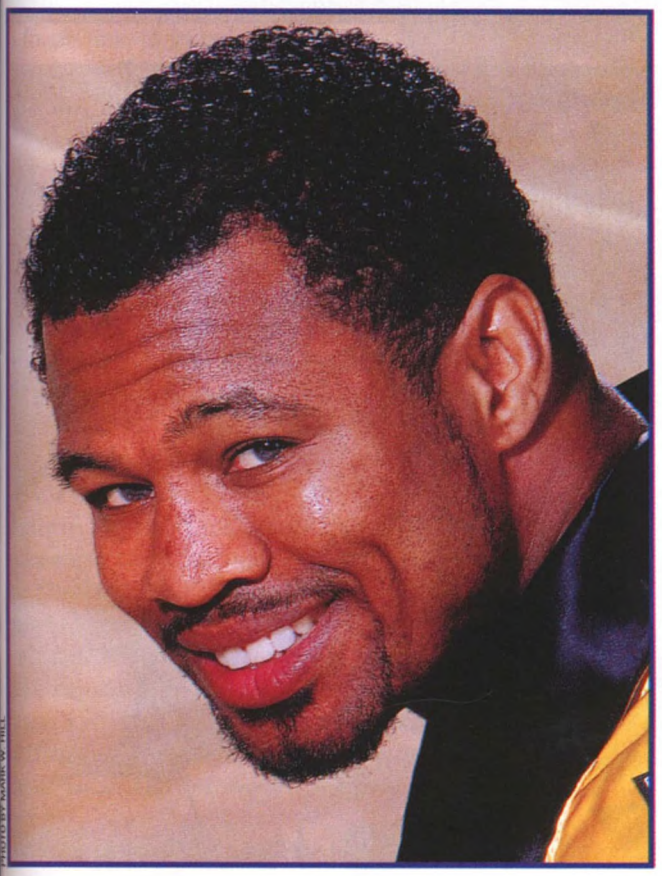
State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5754/09-01

EVERLAST

SHANE MOSLEY



Birthdate: September 7, 1971

Birthplace: Lynwood, California

Residence: Pomona, California

Weight Class: Welterweight

Height: 5'9"

Reach: 72"

Professional Record: 38-0 (35)

World Titles: IBF lightweight (August 2, 1997-April 17, 1999), WBC welterweight (June 17, 2000-present)

Handlers: Jack Mosley, manager/trainer

Background: Taught by his father and recognized as a special talent from an early age. National amateur champion in 1989, '90, and '92, compiling an overall amateur record of 240-10. Turned pro in February '93 and won IBF lightweight title in August '97. Made eight successful defenses (all via kayo) of 135-pound title, then moved up to welterweight, winning the WBC title in June '00. Has tallied three defenses to date. Won the Edward J. Neil Memorial Award in '98 as the Boxing Writers Association of America's Fighter of the Year. *The Ring's* pound-for-pound champion since the November '00 issue.

Style: "Power-boxing" (a term coined by Jack Mosley to describe his son's style)

Strengths: Hand speed, footwork, balance, boxing skills, combination punching, desire to excel

Weaknesses: What weaknesses?

Best Performance: Confirmed greatness with compelling 12-round decision over Oscar De La Hoya, both out-thinking and outfighting "The Golden Boy." Victory also made him the WBC 147-pound champion.

Worst Performance: Dominated Oscar Lopez for his 10th consecutive pro victory, but was forced to go the distance for the first time.

Future: Possible unification with IBF welterweight titlist Vernon Forrest.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A+
Power	A
Defense	A
Ring Generalship	A+
Experience	A+
Quality of Opposition	A-
Chin	A+
Stamina	A+
Overall Grade	A+

SHANE MOSLEY'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

Mosley's right was a major weapon against De La Hoya

1 W 12 Oscar De La Hoya, June 17, 2000, Los Angeles, California

This was everything a superfight is supposed to be, a passionate struggle between two magnificently talented athletes at the peak of their powers, and 20,744 fans responded by filling the Staples Center to see the clash of hometown titans.

Few fights in recent years have been fought on such a consistently high skill level. Mosley established his credentials early, utilizing his superior hand and foot speed to dominate the opening round. De La Hoya, who had been criticized for being too defensive against Felix Trinidad, battled back, and appeared to be on the verge of taking over in the fifth and sixth when his left hook to the body seemed to sap some of Sugar Shane's strength. But just when it seemed as if Mosley might be waning, he briefly switched to southpaw in the eighth, scoring effectively and momentarily confusing "The Golden Boy."

Most rounds were fiercely contested, but Mosley's right hand found the target on a regular basis the second half of the fight, jarring De La Hoya's handsome head back on his shoulders. Still, the defending WBC welterweight champion never stopped trying and came out for the final round with fire in his eyes. But Mosley outlanded him by a gigantic 45 to 18 margin in a punch-packed finale that brought the crowd to its feet.

This truly great fight was almost ruined by judge Marty Sammon, who handed in an absurd 115-113 vote for De La Hoya. Thankfully, judges Lou Filippo and Pat Russell voted for Mosley by tallies of 116-112 and 115-113, respectively, giving the verdict and the WBC belt to Sugar Shane.

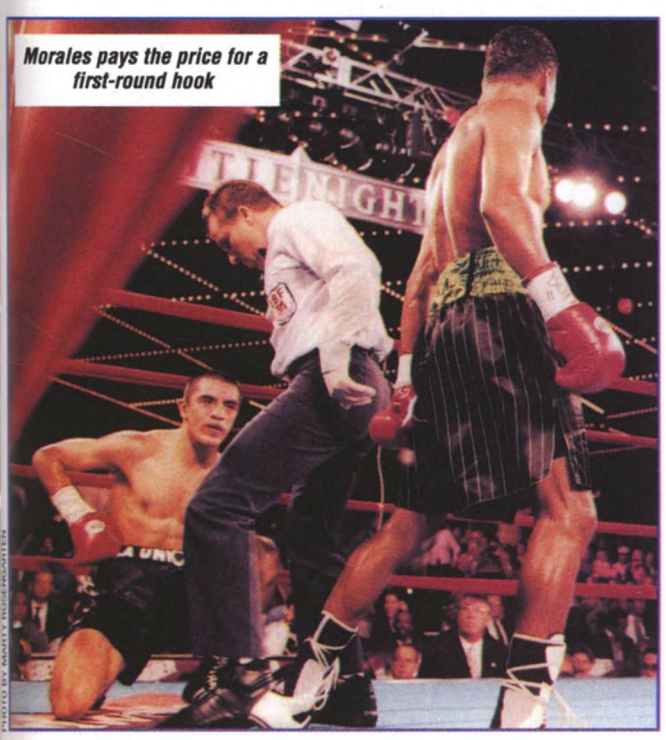
2 KO 8 John-John Molina, May 9, 1998, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Although he was 33 years old, two-time former champion Molina was still a force. He'd won nine straight since giving De La Hoya a tough time in losing a bruising 12-rounder in February '95, and for the first few rounds it appeared the Puerto Rican veteran would do likewise to Mosley. But Mosley gained control in the third when he hurt Molina with a left-right combination, followed by another right.

Molina continued to eat right hands, but stubbornly stayed on his feet until a hard left jab dropped him to his knees in the seventh. In a desperate bid to stay in the fight, Molina came out winging with both hands in the eighth. He landed a couple of shots in an exciting exchange, but Mosley punched back to regain control. Then he really opened up. A series of left hooks smashed home, including one to the body that staggered Molina into the ropes, where he ducked his head between the strands to avoid more punishment. Once Molina righted himself, a final right snapped the now-defenseless challenger's head back, and referee Ed Johnson intervened at the 2:27 mark.

At the time, Molina was the best known of Mosley's victims, and the convincing victory helped establish Sugar Shane as more than just another alphabet champion.

Diaz crumbles under Mosley's power



Morales pays the price for a first-round hook

3 KO 6 Antonio Diaz, November 4, 2000, New York, New York

Although Mosley has been criticized lately for the caliber of opposition he's been fighting since he topped De La Hoya, nobody was knocking the Diaz fight going in. That was because Diaz was on a hot streak, having won 25 straight, including victories over Micky Ward, Cory Spinks, and Ivan Robinson. Since then, Diaz has been lumped in with subsequent Mosley victims Shannan Taylor and Adrian Stone, which isn't really fair to either Sugar Shane or "Tono."

Mosley dazzled Diaz and the sellout crowd at The Theater at Madison Square Garden with a blistering display of powerpunching. A right to the body followed by a left hook to the head floored Diaz in the second, and after three more rounds of punishment, Mosley closed the show with two more knockdowns in the sixth, prompting the referee to call a halt at the 1:36 mark.

"Sugar Shane is, I think, the most exciting fighter out there," said Diaz.

On that particular night, no one was arguing.

4 KO 5 Eduardo Morales, September 22, 1998, New York

Morales had never fought outside of his native Argentina when he came to the Big Apple to challenge Mosley for the IBF lightweight title, and American fans knew little about him except that he boasted an

impressive 26-0 (21) record. All that changed late in the opening round when he drilled Sugar Shane with a counter left hook.

The punch visibly shook Mosley, but the champ quickly regained his composure and went back to work. In the third, he staggered Morales into the ropes with a left hook to the head, then dropped him with a hook to the body. The challenger was down again in the fifth after a flurry of combinations slammed home, and when Mosley picked up where he'd left off prior to the mandatory eight-count, the ref had no alternative but to halt the bout 2:06 into the round.

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

After a tough battle, Mosley gets to Rivera late

Mosley would go on to record more significant victories, but the Morales fight was the one in which he proved his chin was as outstanding as the rest of his game.

5 KO 9 Jesse James Leija, November 14, 1998, Ledyard, Connecticut

Notching his sixth defense of the IBF 135-pound title and adding the name of another ex-champ to his resume was only part of Mosley's motivation for this one. Also at stake was a multifight deal with HBO that was scheduled to be announced after the fight. But first, Sugar Shane had to take care of business.

Mosley immediately established his superiority, lashing into Leija with searing left jabs and crackling right crosses. Leija punched back, but his best blows made little impression. Mosley began to concentrate his attack on the body in the fifth, then knocked Leija down in the sixth, eighth, and ninth. The one-sided trouncing finally came to an end when Leija's corner wisely pulled the courageous challenger out of the fight at the end of the ninth.

"Shane is as close to a perfect fighter as I've ever seen," gushed HBO's Lou DiBella when he announced Mosley's new deal with the network.

6 KO 10 Wilfredo Rivera, September 25, 1999, Temecula, California

When he decided to relinquish the IBF lightweight belt in order to campaign as a welterweight, Mosley could have eased into his new division by fighting a couple of softies. Instead, he opted to test the 147-pound waters by diving directly into the deep end against veteran contender Rivera, whose only losses had come against Pernell Whitaker and De La Hoya.

Rivera, who many thought should have been given the nod in his first fight with Whitaker, welcomed Mosley to the division by giving him one of the most difficult fights of his career.

Attempting to make a statement, Sugar Shane jumped on Rivera in the opening round and unloaded with the kind of barrage that had sunk most of the lightweights he'd fought. But after three minutes of virtually nonstop abuse, Rivera was still there, ready for more. They battled on fairly even terms over the next six rounds, with Rivera landing his share of scoring blows.

It was down the stretch, however, that Mosley again showed what a special fighter he is. Instead of being content with a points victory, he increased the intensity of his attack, and then closed the show in the 10th, sending Rivera to the canvas with a blistering combination, punctuated by a left uppercut to the face.

There was no doubt about it, Mosley was a legitimate welterweight—and De La Hoya was only two fights away.

7 W 12 Philip Holiday, August 2, 1997, Uncasville, Connecticut

As this was Mosley's first title-winning bout, you might think it deserves to be higher on the list, but at the time, his performance was considered something of a disappointment. Going in, HBO's Larry Merchant had compared Sugar Shane to the most famous "Sugar" of them all: Sugar Ray Robinson. But Mosley's performance against defending IBF lightweight champion Holiday made the comparison seem a stretch—at best.

Hampered by gastric distress caused by ingestion of Creatine Monohydrate, Mosley failed to produce the kind of offensive fireworks expected of him. While he managed to shut down Holiday's normally high-volume attack, the challenger never came close to stopping him. Still, Holiday wilted in the late rounds, and Mosley kept

going to win the belt by unanimous scores of 117-111, 116-113, and 115-114.

"He's gotta show us what he can do when he's not ill," said HBO exec DiBella.

Before long, Mosley did exactly that, and the comparisons to Robinson soon became far less odious.

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Brave Ruiz takes a terrible pounding

8 KO 8 Demetrio Ceballos, February 6, 1998, Uncasville

In his second defense of the IBF lightweight title, Mosley drew the kind of bull all matadors dream of: one who charges straight at him with absolutely no regard for personal safety. Round after round, Mosley brutalized his ever-advancing challenger with vicious rights to the head, followed by pulverizing left hooks to the ribs, liver, and head. But the incredibly resilient Ceballos, who entered the bout 20-1 (13), kept coming … and coming.

When referee Eddie Cotton penalized Mosley a point for punching low in the eighth, Sugar Shane kicked his already ferocious assault up another notch. He worked his adversary into a neutral corner, lambasted him with a final combination, and then dropped him for good with a booming right. It had been like watching a kamikaze pilot being shot out of the sky moments before crashing into the deck of an aircraft carrier—mesmerizing in its savagery.

9 KO 5 Wilfrido Ruiz, June 27, 1998, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thanks to the city's long and storied association with the Sweet Science, Philly fans, while hard to please, certainly know the genuine article when they see it. And so it was when Mosley came to town as part of a doubleheader that also featured local hero David Reid vs. Simon Brown.

When original opponent Ivan Robinson pulled out, Ruiz boldly stepped into the firestorm, but after five inhumane rounds on the receiving end of Sugar Shane's flashing fists, he probably wished he hadn't. Spurred on by an appreciative crowd, Mosley unloaded combination after combination until a final right knocked Ruiz flat on his back, where he was counted out at the 2:32 mark of the fifth.

Brown presents a small target

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

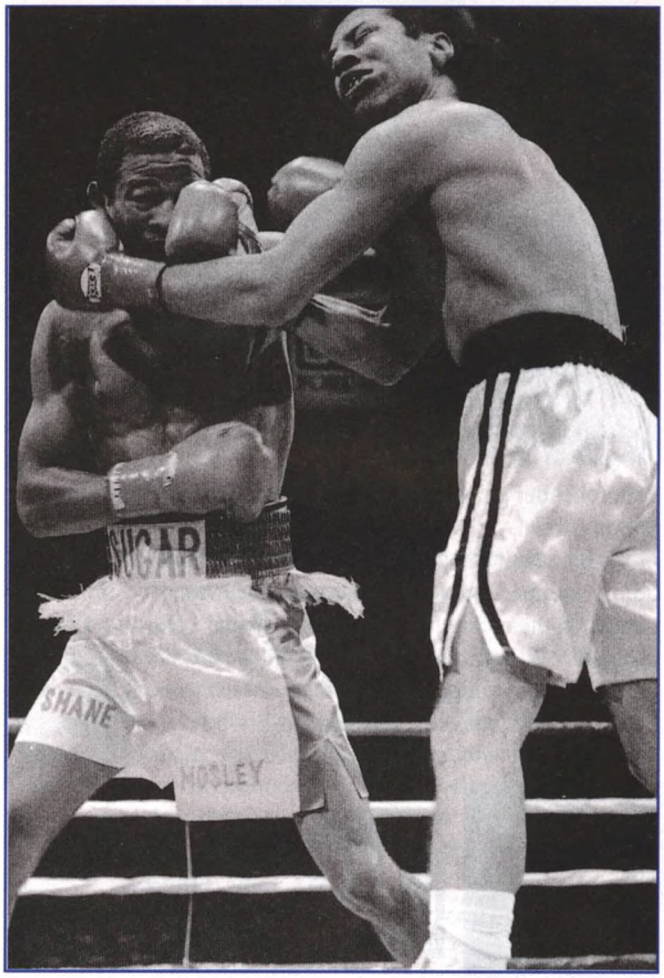
10 KO 8 John Brown, April 17, 1999, Indio, California

For the final defense of the IBF lightweight title, Moley accomplished something nobody had ever done before: He stopped John Brown, one of the toughest little dudes to ever pull on a pair of boxing gloves.

Besides his extraordinary durability, the 5'3½" challenger presented a very small target as he bore in, bent at the waist, trying to wear down Sugar Shane with a grinding body attack. And even when he failed to connect, "The Eastern Beast" tied up Mosley, depriving the titlist of the room he needed to throw his spellbinding combinations.

But slowly, piece by piece, Mosley wore Brown down with single shots, and in the eighth, he hurt the challenger with a leaping left hook. A prolonged, one-way volley followed, prompting referee Pat Russell to stop the fight at the end of the round.

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF SHANE MOSLEY



Mosley stops Juan Aranda in 1993

1993

Feb. 11	Greg Puente, Hollywood, CA	KO 5
April 24	Arnulfo Villa, San Bernardino, CA	KO 1
July 21	Pey Castillo, Reseda, CA	KO 1
Aug. 25	Roberto Urias, Hollywood	KO 5
Sept. 27	Miguel Pena, Inglewood, CA	KO 2
Oct. 25	Juan Aranda, Inglewood	KO 2
Dec. 6	Paulino Gonzalez, Inglewood	KO 2

1994

Jan. 20	Francisco Rodriguez, Irvine, CA	KO 2
Feb. 4	Lorenzo Garcia, Oxnard, CA	KO 5
March 26	Oscar Lopez, Pomona, CA	W 10
April 29	Lorenzo Garcia, Santa Cruz, CA	KO 3
June 30	John Bryant, Irvine	KO 8
July 24	Narciso Valenzuela, Los Angeles	KO 5
Aug. 6	Mauro Gutierrez, Pomona	KO 9
Sept. 9	Louis Madrid, Los Angeles	KO 10
Nov. 12	Jose Madrid, Santa Cruz	KO 4

1995

April 12	Raul Hernandez, Woodland Hills, CA	KO 2
July 20	Maurico Aceves, Anaheim, CA	KO 4

1996

Jan. 23	Mike Bryan, Biloxi, MS	KO 1
Nov. 1	Ramon Felix, Indio, CA	KO 1
Dec. 21	Joseph Murray, Uncasville, CT	KO 3

1997

Feb. 6	Elias Quiroz, Beverly Hills	KO 4
April 9	Mike Smith, Westmont, IL	KO 4
Aug. 2	Philip Holiday, Uncasville *(Wins IBF Lightweight Title)*	W 12
Nov. 25	Manuel Gomez, El Paso, TX *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 11

1998

Feb. 6	Demetrio Ceballos, Uncasville *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 8

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Looks like Holiday knows he's just lost the IBF title

The Molina defense elevated Sugar Shane's status

March 9	John-John Molina, Atlantic City *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 8
June 27	Wilfrido Ruiz, Philadelphia *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 5
Sept. 22	Eduardo Morales, New York City *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 5
Nov. 14	Jesse James Leija, Ledyard, CT *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 9

1999

Jan. 9	Golden Johnson, Pensacola, FL *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 7
April 17	John Brown, Indio *(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)*	KO 8
Sept. 25	Wilfredo Rivera, Temecula, CA	KO 10

2000

Jan. 22	Willy Wise, Las Vegas	KO 3
June 17	Oscar De La Hoya, Los Angeles *(Wins WBC Welterweight Title)*	W 12
Nov. 4	Antonio Diaz, New York City *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 6

2001

March 10	Shannan Taylor, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 5
July 21	Adrian Stone, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Welterweight Title)*	KO 3

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
38	38	0	0	35

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Stone was no match for Mosley

MEMORABLE QUOTES

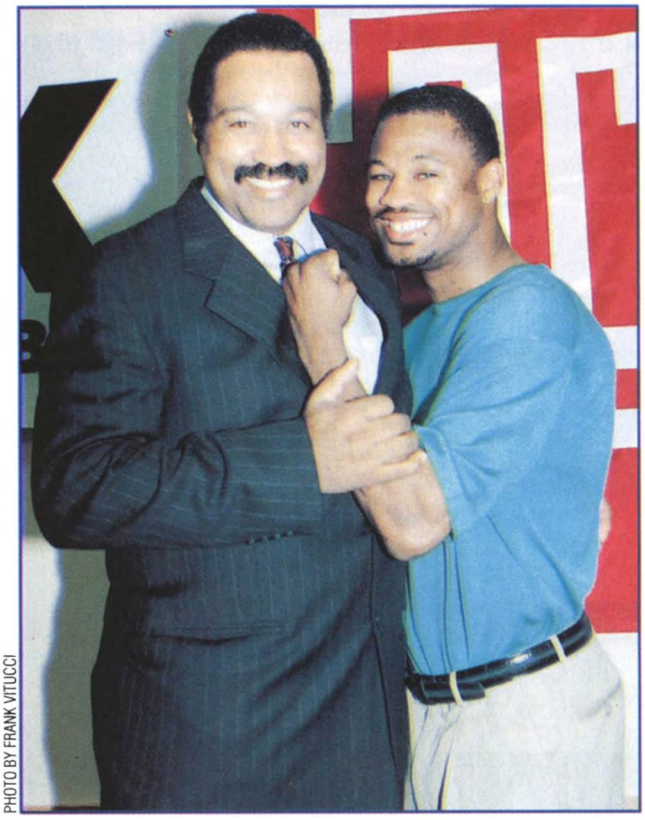


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Two big smiles, one gigantic ego

"He was too hyper to take a nap when he was in nursery school, so they brought in a tricycle for him to ride while the other kids were sleeping."

—1998, Jack Mosley recalling his son's early years

"When I was younger they said, 'You look like a little Sugar Ray.' They called me Sugar Ray Robinson, but I didn't know who Sugar Ray Robinson was when I was young."

—1998, Sugar Shane on his legendary nickname

"My mother is the one who actually got me into boxing. My father was always working out, training, and my mother told him to take me to the gym with him, and I started working out."

—2000, Mosley on his beginnings as a boxer

"My father has a bigger ego than me. When he was coming up, he was, you know, like the hot guy on campus. He was on the gymnastic team and he was all big and buffed."

—2000, Shane on his trainer/manager/father

"Shane has a great intuitive feel of how to adjust to his opponent during a fight, and it seems seamless because he has such a classic boxing style. He's a really keen student of the game and can always put that into practice on the fly."

—2000, HBO boxing analyst Larry Merchant analyzing Mosley

"It will be like the first round of Hagler-Hearns, all action from the start."

—2000, Mosley predicting what will happen when the opening bell rings for his match with De La Hoya

"The 12th was a fabulous round, with each boxer's bravery laid out for all to see."

—2000, Sports Illustrated's *Richard Hoffer writing about the final round of Mosley-De La Hoya*

"It wasn't like, *Wow! I won!* In my heart I knew I could beat De La Hoya."

—2000, Mosley in the aftermath of his biggest triumph

"Shane Mosley, perhaps the world's most talented boxer and arguably one of the finest examples of young manhood in professional sports, has been kicking around New York City for the past month in virtual anonymity."

—2000, New York Post *columnist Wallace Matthews on Mosley's lack of fame*

"I want to be remembered as one of the great Sugars. You have Sugar Ray Robinson, Sugar Ray Leonard, and now Sugar Shane Mosley."

—2000, Mosley reflecting on his legacy ■

A perfect representative for boxing

BOXING BACK ISSUE WAREHOUSE SALE!

Back issues of *International Boxing, Big Book Of Boxing, KO Annual, Knockout,* and *Boxing Superstars & Superbouts* are available!

Order now before our limited supplies are exhausted!

INTERNATIONAL BOXING

Feb. 1981: Gerry Cooney: One Fight Away From The Heavyweight Title. Also: Verderosa, Weaver-Coetzee, Spinks brothers, Ali.

Aug. 1981: Champion Sean O'Grady Rates His Contenders. Also: Rosario, Saad Muhammad-Sutherland, Leonard-Kalule preview, Louis.

Aug. 1982: Michael Spinks & Howard Davis Jr.: Different Destinies On The Road From Montreal. Also: Richard Sandoval, Big John Tate, Jimmy Bradock, 1956 in review.

April 1983: "The Pain From The Tragedy Has Passed," By Ray Mancini. Also: Broad, Hearns-Benitez, 1982 in review.

BIG BOOK OF BOXING

July 1981: The Welterweights: Where They Stand Today. Also: Saad Muhammad, WBA champs vs. WBC champs, Shavers, Conn.

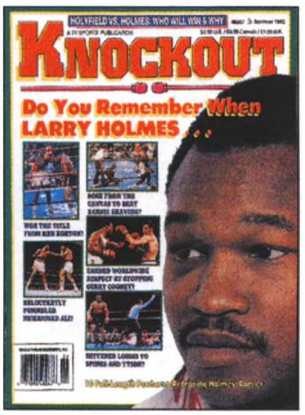
July 1982: Tomorrow's Champions: A Midterm Report Card. Also: LaMotta, Napoles, Czyz, Ramos, Saad Muhammad-Moore dream fight.

Sept. 1982: The Fights We'd Like To See—Leonard-Hagler, Spinks-Braxton, Benitez-Ayala Jr., Arguello-Sanchez, Weaver-Dokes. Also: Liston-Foreman dream fight.

Jan. 1983: An Open Letter To Gerry Cooney: Fight Now—Or Forget It! Also: LaMotta, Duran, Corbett, Palomino-Gavilan dream fight.

July 1983: Michael Dokes: How He Can Restore The Decayed WBA Title. Also: Torres, Burns, young heavyweights, Patterson-Johansson, Pryor-Armstrong dream fight.

Nov. 1983: The Experts Rate Today's Fighters: The Best Of The Best. Willard, Madison Square Garden, Petrolle, Mancini-Buchanan dream fight.



March 1984: Suppose Sugar Ray Leonard Never Retired, Part I. Also: Tunney, lightweights, Pep-Pedroza dream fight.

July 1985: Championship Corner: Donald Curry vs. Colin Jones. Also: Napoles-Griffith, Ali, Charles, 10 meanest fighters, Spinks-Galindez dream fight.

KO ANNUAL

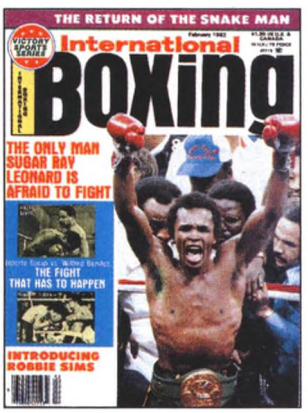
1983 Edition: Superfight '83—Marvin Hagler vs. Roberto Duran. Previews & Analysis, full records and bios, who will win and why.

KNOCKOUT

Summer 1988: Tyson vs. Spinks: A Preview Of The Heavyweight Showdown. Includes: Superfight preview, features on nine other superfights, heavyweight scrapbook part II.

Winter 1988: Sugar Ray Leonard vs. The All-Time Greats. Includes: Features on boxing's "young turks," heavyweight scrapbook part IV.

Spring 1989: The Year In Pictures: A Month-By-Month Recap Of 1988. Includes: Tyson, Bruno, Hearns, Armstrong.



Summer 1989: Leonard vs. Hearns: Their Past, Present, And Future. Includes: Chacon, Monzon, Marciano-Moore, Leonard-Robinson dream fight.

Fall 1989: The War That Didn't Settle The Score: Is Hearns-Leonard III Ahead? Includes: Saddler, Sanchez, heavyweight fights' last rounds, best of *KO* Interview.

Spring 1990: The Way Roberto Duran Should Be Remembered. Includes: Duran vs. Buchanan, DeJesus, Palomino, Leonard, and Moore.

Spring 1991: Evander Holyfield—The Stories Of His Success. Includes: Eight Holyfield features, Ali vs. Jack Johnson, Tony Ayala.

Fall 1991: The Greatest Upsets Of The Last 25 Years! Includes: Tyson-Douglas, Ali-Foreman, Leonard-Hagler, Spinks-Ali, Toney-Nunn, Barkley-Hearns.

Spring 1992: The Greatest Punchers Of Our Time! Includes: Tyson, Arguello, Shavers, Foreman, Julian Jackson.

Summer 1992: The Career Of Larry Holmes. Includes: 10 features retracing Holmes' career, Holmes-Holyfield preview.

Winter 1992: The Dynamite Dozen—The Greatest Fighters Of The Past 25 Years. Includes: Ali, Duran, Napoles, Tyson, Chavez.

Spring 1993: Riddick Bowe & Lennox Lewis—The Pride Of Two Nations. Includes: 12 full-length features and interviews with the reigning heavyweight champs.

Summer 1993: The Multi-Division Greats! Includes: Leonard, Chavez, Armstrong, Canzoneri, and more.

Fall 1993: Controversy & Scandal—The Most Outrageous Boxing Stories Of The Past 30 Years. Includes: Tyson, Leonard-Duran II, Chavez-Taylor I, Whitaker-Ramirez, Panama Lewis, and more.

Winter 1993: Middleweight Mania! The Best 160-Pounders Of The Last 25 Years. Includes: Leonard, Toney, McCallum, Eubank, Monzon, and more.

Summer 1994: Bombs Away! Boxing's Greatest Brawls. Includes: Foreman-Lyle, Pryor-Arguello, Holyfield-Dokes, Cruz-McGuigan, and more.

SUPERSTARS & SUPERFIGHTS

May 1998: De La Hoya, Holyfield, Hamed, Hopkins, Blue Horizon. 36 all-color pages.

July 1998: Tyson, Tapia, Martin, Manfredy-Gatti. 36 all-color pages.

September 1998: Lewis-Briggs, Chavez, Trinidad, Foreman, Phillips, De La Hoya, sluggers. 36 all-color pages.

Winter 1998: De La Hoya Special. Includes double-sided 21" x 30" poster.

Spring 1999: Holyfield vs. Lewis special. Preview & analysis, biofiles, tale of the tape, key questions, pro records, experts' picks.

SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 Each

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA #_____

☐ MasterCard #_____

Expiration Date: ____/____ MO/YR

Signature:_____

For all orders outside of the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by surface mail and $3 for every back issue ordered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

WAREHOUSE SALE

INTERNATIONAL
- ☐ FEB/81
- ☐ AUG/81
- ☐ AUG/82
- ☐ APR/83

BIG BOOK
- ☐ JUL/81
- ☐ JUL/82
- ☐ SEP/82
- ☐ JAN/83
- ☐ JUL/83
- ☐ NOV/83
- ☐ MAR/84
- ☐ JUL/85

KO ANNUAL
- ☐ 1983

KNOCKOUT
- ☐ SUM/88
- ☐ WIN/88
- ☐ SPR/89
- ☐ SUM/89
- ☐ FAL/89
- ☐ SPR/90
- ☐ SPR/91
- ☐ FAL/91
- ☐ SPR/92
- ☐ SUM/92
- ☐ WIN/92
- ☐ SPR/93
- ☐ SUM/93
- ☐ FAL/93
- ☐ WIN/93
- ☐ SUM/94

STARS/FIGHTS
- ☐ MAY/98
- ☐ JUL/98
- ☐ SEP/98
- ☐ WIN/98
- ☐ SPR/99

In case of sellout, please list alternate choice:_____

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

5426/12-00/4c

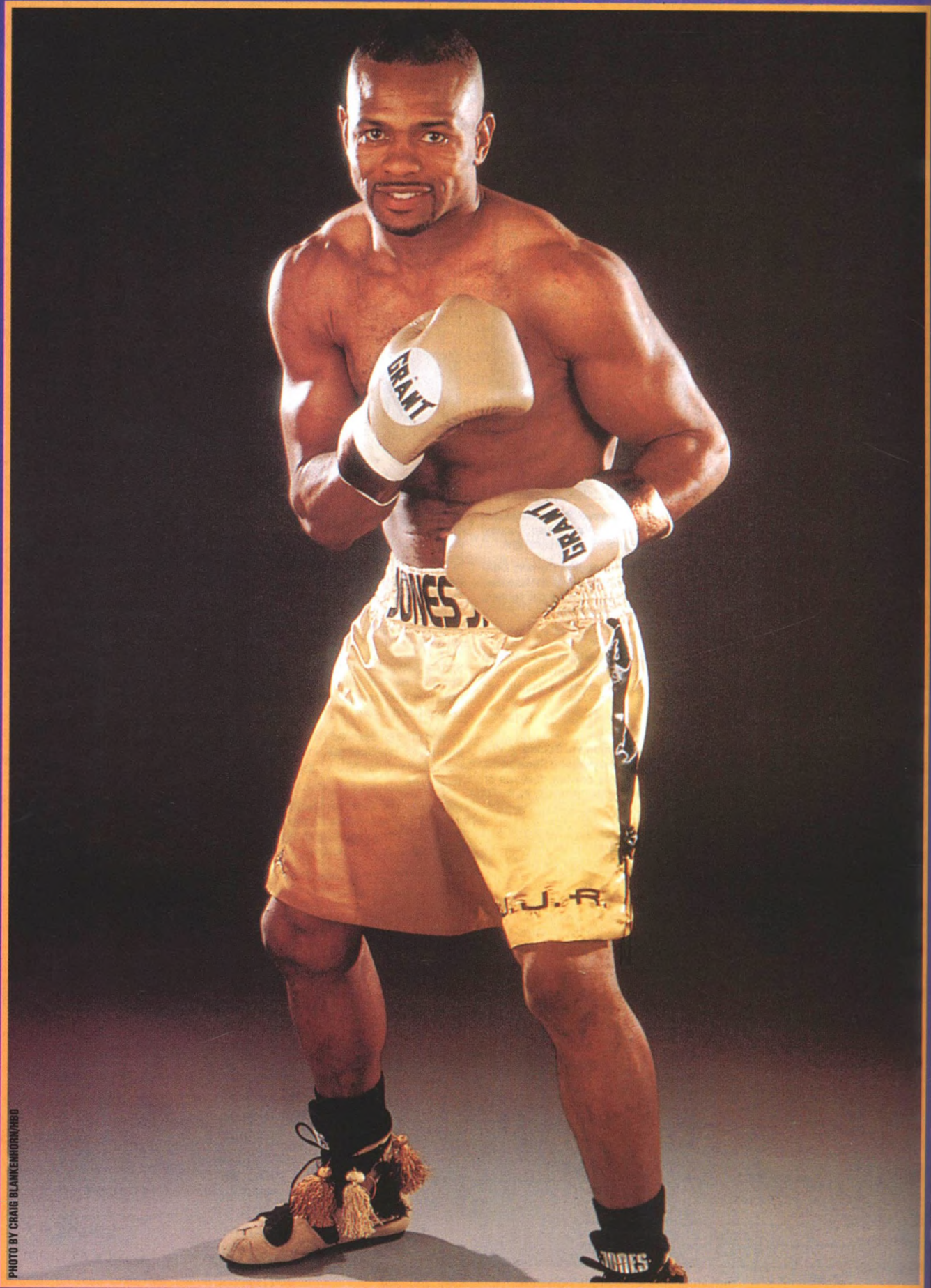
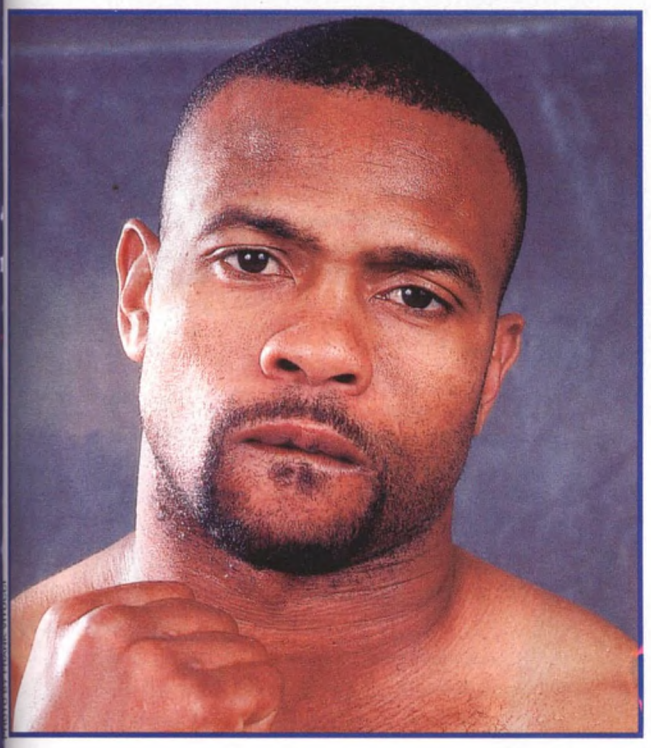


PHOTO BY CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

ROY JONES



Birthdate: January 16, 1969

Birthplace: Pensacola, Florida

Residence: Pensacola, Florida

Weight Class: Light Heavyweight

Height: 5'11"

Reach: 74"

Professional Record: 45-1 (36)

World Titles: IBF middleweight (May 22, 1993-November 18, 1994), IBF super middleweight (November 18, 1994-November 22, 1996), WBC light heavyweight (November 22, 1996-March 21, 1997; August 7, 1997-present), WBA light heavyweight (July 18, 1998-present), World/IBF light heavyweight (June 5, 1999-present)

Handler: Alton Merkerson, trainer

Background: Began boxing at the age of 10 under the guidance of his father, Roy Jones Sr. Tallied an outstanding 135-10 amateur record that included five Alabama State Golden Gloves championships, three U.S. National titles, two National Golden Gloves championships, and a silver medal at the 1988 Olympics. Should have won gold at Seoul Games, but was the victim of a scandalous decision. Turned pro in May '89, and has gone on to win world titles in three weight classes and become one of boxing's most prominent personalities. Was *The Ring's* 1994 Fighter of the Year. Voted 1990s Fighter of the Decade by the the Boxing Writers Association of America. Received WBC Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. Moonlights as minor league basketball player and rapper.

Style: Flashy boxer-puncher

Strengths: Extraordinary hand and foot speed, elusiveness, intelligence

Weaknesses: Reluctance/inability to finish hurt opponents, tendency to coast, partiality to outclassed adversaries

Best Performance: Totally outclassed James Toney to win the IBF 168-pound title via unanimous decision, a victory that also elevated him to the top of most pound-for-pound lists.

Worst Performance: Lost the WBC 175-pound belt when he was disqualified for twice hitting Montell Griffin while Griffin was on the floor.

Future: Perhaps a career-defining fight with Felix Trinidad.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A
Power	B+
Defense	A+
Ring Generalship	A+
Experience	A+
Quality of Opposition	B
Chin	A+
Stamina	A-
Overall Grade	A-

ROY JONES' 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

PHOTO BY NASSER KHAN

Toney had no answer for Jones' hand speed

1 W 12 James Toney, November 18, 1994, Las Vegas, Nevada

They hyped the Jones-Toney showdown like it was going to be a down-and-dirty streetfight. The ads showed the fighters in a graffiti-scarred alley, looking like a couple of muggers. Promoter Bob Arum called the highly anticipated bout "The UnCivil War." But perhaps a more fitting image would have shown Jones dressed as a university professor, standing at a lectern, because once the first bell rang, he turned the ring at the MGM Grand into a classroom, and proceeded to hand Toney a one-sided boxing lesson.

The previously unbeaten Toney couldn't do a thing with Jones, whose vast superiority in hand speed and mobility enabled him to literally box circles around the defending IBF super middleweight champion. Toney, who claimed he was weakened by sweating down to the division limit of 168 pounds, was knocked down in the third round and buzzed in the fifth and seventh. The unanimous decision—118-109, 117-110, 119-108—in Jones' favor was a formality.

Not only did the surprisingly easy victory make Jones the IBF super middle boss, it also rocketed him to the top of most pound-for-pound lists.

2 KO 1 Montell Griffin, August 7, 1997, Ledyard, Connecticut

This was the Jones boxing fans would love to see every time he fights—a destructive alter ego he calls R.J. This version is a cold-blooded assassin

PHOTO BY MARK ROBINSON

Revenge was short and sweet in the second Griffin fight

who shows no mercy and has to be counted among the most deadly fighting machines to ever throw a punch. Most of the time, Jones keeps R.J. buried somewhere deep in his psyche, but every now and then, usually when Jones is really pissed, R.J. pops to the surface, and all hell breaks lose.

Griffin had raised Jones' dander and the daunting specter of R.J. by doing the unthinkable: beating Jones in the ring. Or perhaps more accurately, frustrating Jones to such a degree, that he beat himself. That had occurred four months earlier, when Jones had been justifiably disqualified for twice punching Griffin in the head while he was down.

As soon as the opening bell sounded for the rematch, Jones unleashed R.J.—full force. Griffin was hurt with the first punch his fired-up rival threw, a left hook to the jaw. Another hook quickly followed, and Griffin sagged against the ropes and slid to the canvas. He struggled up, but was soon floored again with another hook, this time for good. It was all over 2:31 into the first round. Jones was champ again, and R.J. disappeared back into the darker recesses of his mind.

3 KO 4 Virgil Hill, April 25, 1998, Biloxi, Mississippi

This fight will long be remembered for one thing, and one thing only: the awesome bodyshot that ended the fight and broke one of Hill's ribs.

Two-time former WBA light heavyweight champion Hill was coming off his first loss in six years, a 12-round points defeat to Dariusz Michalczewski, and was considered past his prime. But for the first three rounds, he fought reasonably well, moving briskly, snapping out southpaw jabs, and surviving several of Jones' rapid-fire volleys. Then, in the fourth, came the punch no one who saw it will ever forget, least of all Hill.

"He never throws bodyshots," recalled Hill, "so when he went to throw the right hand, I turned from it because I thought he was going to counter me with the right over the top. But he threw it underneath and it kind of hit me in the back part of my side. It was a great shot, and as a result, *Boom!* Fight over."

Ouch!

4 W 12 Bernard Hopkins, May 22, 1993, Washington, D.C.

Neither man performed at his best when they clashed for the vacant IBF middleweight title, but when you take into consideration how much each

PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO

The shot that sank Hill

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Jones unified the light heavyweight title against Johnson

has accomplished since, the importance of Jones' close but comprehensive victory over "The Executioner" comes into sharper focus.

Although there were no knockdowns and neither man was seriously hurt, like so many before and after him, Hopkins couldn't cope with Jones' speed and unorthodox head and shoulder feints. Hopkins never stopped trying, however, and enjoyed slightly more success the second half of the fight. Even so, the unanimous decision in Jones' favor was never in doubt, and he won by triple scores of 116-112, outlanding Hopkins 206 to 153, according to CompuBox.

True, Jones' first title-winning fight wasn't exactly a shining moment, but it is a victory that has grown in significance with the passage of time.

5 W 12 Reggie Johnson, June 5, 1999, Biloxi

Although critics have legitimately complained about the quality of Jones' mandatory challengers, there has been a silver lining to his decision to accommodate every undeserving opponent the various alphabet organizations demanded he fight: It allowed Jones to unify the light heavyweight title for the first time since Michael Spinks beat Dwight Qawi in 1983.

Jones already wore the WBC and WBA belts when he met IBF titlist Johnson, a seasoned campaigner who had also briefly held the WBA middleweight title in the early-'90s. But the veteran southpaw from Houston, Texas, quickly discovered that his boxing skills and experience were no match for Jones' blazing speed.

A lead right dropped Johnson in the first round, and he was down again in the third after getting drilled with a left hook-straight right combination. Jones tried to end it in the fourth, but when Johnson refused to fold, "Reluctant Roy" eased up and coasted to a unanimous decision by tallies of triple scores of 120-106.

6 W 12 Lou Del Valle, July 18, 1998, New York, New York

If Del Valle never does another thing of note, and to date he hasn't, he'll be remembered as the first (and maybe only) man to knock down Jones. The unique moment came in the eighth round when Del Valle connected with a straight left that dropped Jones on the seat of his burgundy-and-cream shorts.

"He caught me with a damned good shot," Jones admitted. "I was in shock."

But not for long, and after regaining his feet, Jones picked up where he'd left off prior to the decking, rattling Del Valle with enough combinations to win a unanimous decision by scores of 119-108 and 118-109 (twice).

Despite suffering his first trip to the canvas, Jones proved his mettle by remaining unruffled and quickly regaining control of the fight. The victory was also the second leg of his quest to unify the light heavyweight title, as Del Valle had owned the WBA belt going into the Madison Square Garden match.

7 KO 2 Thomas Tate, May 27, 1994, Las Vegas

This quickie is noteworthy for two reasons: 1) It was Jones' lone defense of the IBF middleweight title; 2) To date, it was the only time in Tate's long career he's been knocked out. Not that Tate is a future Hall of Famer, but he's a solid pro who's still ranked and still fighting well seven years after being iced by Jones, and to take him out in such a rapid and emphatic fashion was a significant accomplishment.

Tate may have sealed his own fate by trash-talking throughout the prefight buildup, as Jones—or was that R.J.?—came out firing. He landed three quick combinations, and although Tate fought back with rights, you could tell it wouldn't last much longer. It didn't. Early in the second, Jones put Tate flat on his back with a wicked left hook. Somehow, the brave challenger wobbled up inside of the count, but his trainer, former light heavyweight champ Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, jumped onto the ring apron and told referee Richard Steele to stop the fight, which he did 30 seconds into the round.

PHOTO BY JASON ROSS LAVIN

Paz was defenseless once Jones opened up

8 KO 6 Vinny Pazienza, June 24, 1995, Atlantic City, New Jersey

In order to put this one into perspective, you have to remember that this wasn't the Pazienza of today. Going into the Jones fight, he was on an 11-fight winning streak, which included victories over Lloyd Honeyghan, Roberto Duran, and Rafael Williams. Though it must be admitted that it was Paz' ability to sell tickets more than anything else that garnered him a shot at Jones' IBF 168-pound belt.

The irrepressible Pazienza had actually convinced himself that he could beat Jones, but once the fight started, he was soon shown the error of his ways. Despite his customary energetic display, Paz never accomplished much, and by the end of the fifth round, his right eye was cut and badly swollen. Then Jones really let him have it.

In the sixth, Jones knocked Paz down three times. Referee Tony Orlando was already moving in to stop the fight when the third decking occurred, and he terminated the bout at the 2:58 mark. But as far as Jones was concerned, the ref should have made his move even sooner.

"I'm not in boxing to hurt anyone," said Jones.

You could have fooled Pazienza.

9 KO 2 Bryant Brannon, October 4, 1996, New York

This was another of Jones' more exciting outings, thanks to the all-out attack the previously unbeaten Brannon launched from the onset. He tore into Jones with both arms pumping, quickly backing him into the ropes, where he whaled away with powershots. Jones took a few punches, but covered up and adroitly avoided most of the leather Brannon was raining down on him. Then, midway into the round, Jones responded with sharp hooks and uppercuts. A counter hook floored Brannon, but he beat the count and survived the round.

The fierce action continued in the second, as Jones opened with a mid-ring blitz, but Brannon fought back, forcing the champion to the ropes again. Jones responded with a five-hook combination, then decked Brannon again with another counter hook. Brannon regained his feet, but when a final hook put him down for a third time, the referee called it off without bothering to issue another count.

10 KO 4 Percy Harris, December 5, 1992, Atlantic City

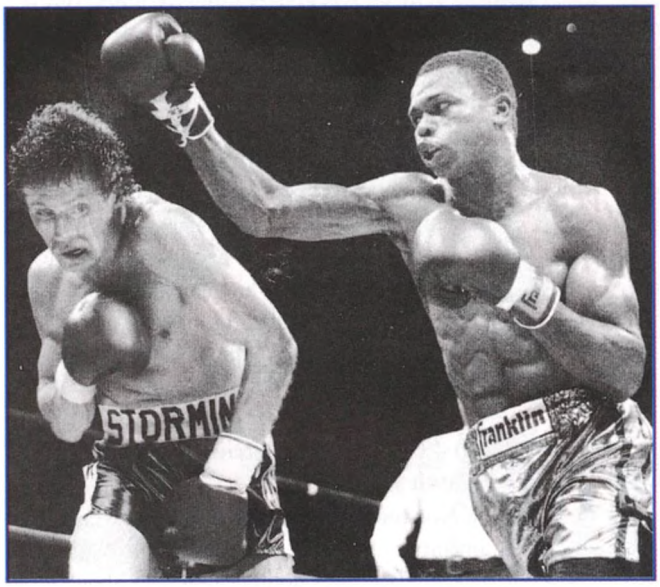
Not too many people talk about this fight anymore, but it was an early milestone for Jones. There was nothing reluctant about Jones in those days, and he launched such a vicious and effective attack (he dropped Harris in the first and second, and then ended matters with a third knockdown in the fourth) that he stole the show away from Iran Barkley and James Toney, both of whom fought on the same card.

Ah, those were the days. ■

PHOTO BY AL BELLO

Harris was an early kayo victim

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF ROY JONES



Ron Amundsen was Jones' third pro victim

1989		
May 6	Ricky Randall, Pensacola, FL	KO 2
June 11	Stephan Johnson, Atlantic City	KO 8
Sept. 3	Ron Amundsen, Pensacola	KO 7
Nov. 30	David McCluskey, Pensacola	KO 3

1990		
Jan. 8	Joe Edens, Mobile, AL	KO 2
Feb. 28	Billy Mitchum, Pensacola	KO 2
March 28	Knox Brown, Pensacola	KO 3
May 11	Ron Johnson, Pensacola	KO 2
July 14	Tony Waddles, Pensacola	KO 1
Sept. 25	Rollin Williams, Pensacola	KO 4
Nov. 8	Reggie Miller, Pensacola	KO 5

1991		
Jan. 31	Ricky Stackhouse, Pensacola	KO 1
April 13	Eddie Evans, Pensacola	KO 3
Aug. 3	Kevin Daigle, Pensacola	KO 2
Aug. 31	Lester Yarbrough, Pensacola	KO 8

1992		
Jan. 10	Jorge Vaca, New York City	KO 1
April 3	Art Serwano, Reno, NV	KO 1
June 30	Jorge Castro, Pensacola	W 10
Aug. 18	Glenn Thomas, Pensacola	KO 8
Dec. 5	Percy Harris, Atlantic City	KO 4

1993		
Feb. 13	Glenn Wolfe, Las Vegas	KO 1
May 22	Bernard Hopkins, Washington, D.C. *(Wins Vacant IBF Middleweight Title)*	W 12
Aug. 14	Thulane Malinga, Bay St. Louis, MS *(Non-Title Bout)*	KO 6
Nov. 30	Fermin Chirino, Pensacola *(Non-Title Bout)*	W 10

1994		
March 22	Daniel Garcia, Pensacola *(Non-Title Bout)*	KO 6
May 27	Thomas Tate, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 2
Nov. 18	James Toney, Las Vegas *(Wins IBF Super Middleweight Title)*	W 12

1995		
March 18	Antoine Byrd, Pensacola *(Retains IBF Super Middleweight Title)*	KO 1

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

Jones stopped future titlist Sugarboy Malinga

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Jones and Bernard Hopkins trade shots

June 24	Vinny Pazienza, Atlantic City *(Retains IBF Super Middleweight Title)*	KO 6
Sept. 30	Tony Thornton, Pensacola *(Retains IBF Super Middleweight Title)*	KO 3

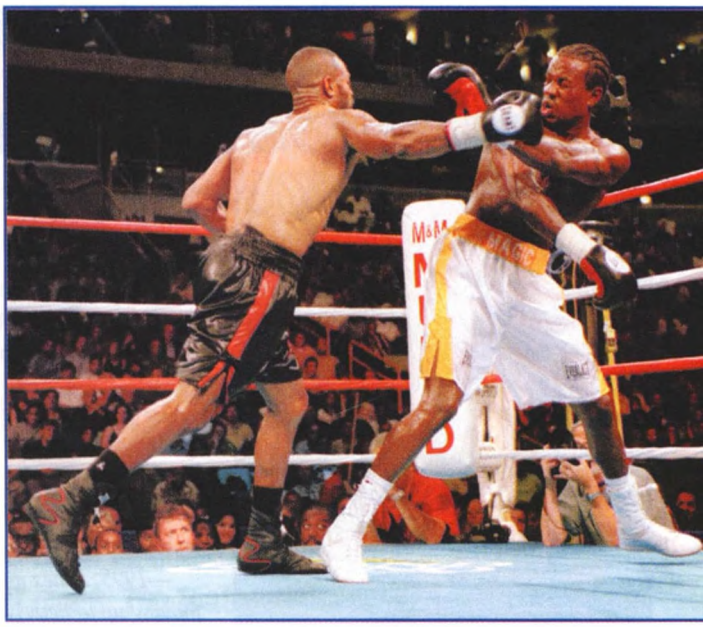
1996

Jan. 12	Merqui Sosa, New York City *(Non-Title Bout)*	KO 2
June 15	Eric Lucas, Jacksonville, FL *(Retains IBF Super Middleweight Title)*	KO 11
Oct. 4	Bryant Brannon, New York City *(Retains IBF Super Middleweight Title)*	KO 2
Nov. 22	Mike McCallum, Tampa *(Wins Interim WBC Light Heavyweight Title)*	W 12

1997

March 21	Montell Griffin, Atlantic City *(Loses WBC Light Heavyweight Title)*	L Disq. 9
Aug. 7	Montell Griffin, Ledyard, CT *(Regains WBC Light Heavyweight Title)*	KO 1

David Telesco took a battering, but lasted the distance



On the attack against Eric Harding

1998

April 25	Virgil Hill, Biloxi, MS *(Non-Title Bout)*	KO 4
July 18	Lou Del Valle, New York City *(Retains WBC Light Heavyweight Title; Wins WBA Light Heavyweight Title)*	W 12
Nov. 14	Otis Grant, Ledyard *(Retains WBC & WBA Light Heavyweight Titles)*	KO 10

1999

Jan. 9	Rick Frazier, Pensacola *(Retains WBC & WBA Light Heavyweight Titles)*	KO 2
June 5	Reggie Johnson, Biloxi *(Unifies Light Heavyweight Title)*	W 12

2000

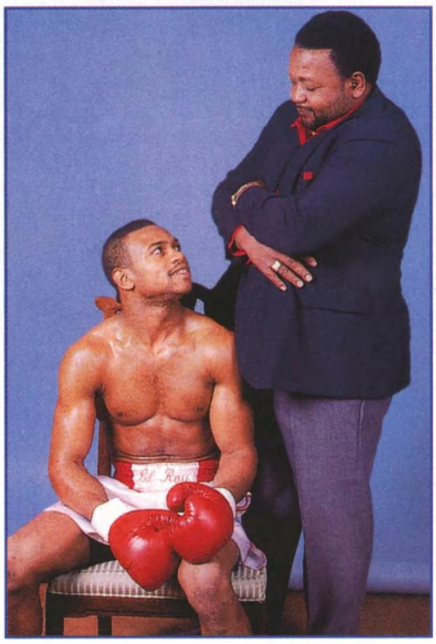
Jan. 15	David Telesco, New York City *(Retains Unified Light Heavyweight Title)*	W 12
May 13	Richard Hall, Indianapolis *(Retains Unified Light Heavyweight Title)*	KO 11
Sept. 9	Eric Harding, New Orleans *(Retains Unified Light Heavyweight Title)*	KO 10

2001

Feb. 24	Derrick Harmon, Tampa *(Retains Unified Light Heavyweight Title)*	KO 10
July 28	Julio Gonzalez, Los Angeles *(Retains Unified Light Heavyweight Title)*	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
46	45	1	0	36

MEMORABLE QUOTES



Roy isn't looking up to his father anymore

"My father would holler and get physical, whatever it took. He had a plastic pipe. He'd hit me with it all the time. Leave a welt. Sometimes I'd cry. He'd tell me to shut up."

—1988, Jones recalling the tough love he got from his father, Roy Jones Sr.

"I was still bitter when I returned to the United States. Here I was, the top boxer in the Olympics, and no gold medal to show for it. But then I found so many people who supported me, told me how I had been robbed, that I realized that people in this country felt I was the Olympic champion."

—1989, Jones looking back on his experience at the Seoul Olympics, where an unjust decision deprived him of a gold medal

"I was sharp, like greased lightning."

—1989, Jones after his first pro bout, a second-round knockout of Ricky Randall

"We had Roy on a total of 16 rounds, and he didn't lose even one. It got to be a joke. They were so incredibly cautious. They wanted to fight the biggest stiffs you ever saw."

—1995, NBC boxing coordinator Kevin Monaghan, explaining the network's decision not to televise any more of Jones' fights

"Deep in my heart, I'll always love him. But I won't even talk to him again."

—1995, Jones on his break with his father

"I don't think I could fight Riddick Bowe, but I think I could fight Mike Tyson. The thing is, how will I react when he hits me?"

—1995, Jones mulling the possibility of moving up to heavyweight

"Yeah, stay the hell away from him."

—1995, knockout victim Tony Thornton, when asked if he had any advice for future Jones opponents

"Knowing Roy, we'll get some extra blabber and wonderful words of wisdom during the fight."

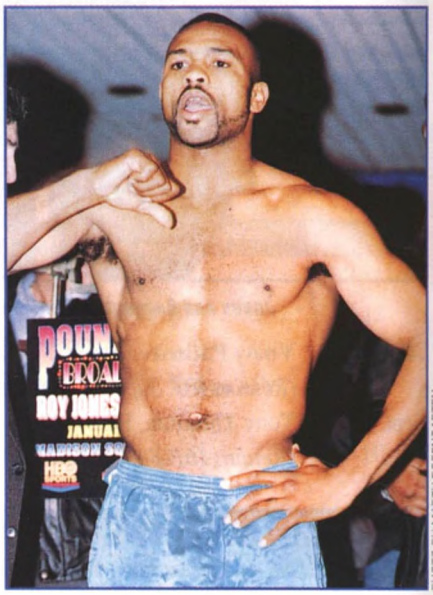
—1996, HBO's Ross Greenburg, announcing that Jones would have a tiny microphone sewed into the front of his trunks for his bout with Mike McCallum

"I am embarrassed. I take full responsibility."

—1999, WBC President Jose Sulaiman, after Jones dispatched the organization's number-one contender, Rick Frazier

"Why should I be disappointed that I'm much better than all of my competition? Shoot, I'm glad."

—2000, Jones refusing to apologize for either his brilliance or his opponents' lack thereof



Jones spouts off

"I guess they ain't got nothing better to do. If they had something better to do, they wouldn't have time to mess with Roy. But if that makes them happy, come on with it. I can take it. It don't bother me one bit."

—2001, Jones responding to the organizers of "Roycott," a group urging fans to boycott his pay-per-view bout with Julio Gonzalez ■

The champ puts his best foot forward at Radio City Music Hall

DEVASTATING 1-2 COMBO!

Now that BOXING 2002 and WORLD BOXING have gone to an all-color format, those punches captured by our award-winning photographers seem to hurt more. The features and columns seem a little more hard-hitting. BOXING 2002 and WORLD BOXING take you as close to the sport as you can get (without getting blood splattered on your clothing)!

SAVE NEARLY $10.00!

BOXING 2002 (Published three times per year)

BOXING 2002, now 84 all-color, all-slick pages, includes ...

Showdown. A detailed look at a major upcoming fight.

Fight Review. A comprehensive recap of recent ring action.

International Fight Summary. An analysis of all major bouts from around the world.

Columns by our respected editors, Eric Raskin and Joe Santoliquito (on an alternating basis).

Hot Prospect. A profile of a rising fighter with star potential.

Boxing 2002 Ratings. A survey of the sport's top fighters by weight class, plus a special "Pound-For-Pound" category of the 12 best fighters in the world.

Media Review. A critical examination of the fight game's press coverage.

WORLD BOXING (Published three times per year)

WORLD BOXING, now 100 all-color, all-slick pages, includes ...

Hitting On The Break. An outrageous column by controversial Jim Bagg. You're not going to believe this guy!

Getting My Irish Up. Contributing Editor Ed Maloney lets off some steam.

Odds On Favorite. An innovative gambling column by Stephen Nover. The latest lowdown and betting data, direct from Las Vegas.

The Predictor. Previews and odds on upcoming fights.

World Boxing Ratings. A compilation of the world's best fighters by weight class, presented by the editors.

Heavyweight Report Card. We grade six different fighters in every issue and forecast their chances for future success.

International Wrapup. The results of the latest fights from around the world.

THREE WAYS TO GET BIG-TIME SAVINGS!

Please Check The One You Wish To Order:

❑ 1 year of BOXING 2002 (3 issues) for $11.98. Save almost $3.00!

❑ 1 year WORLD BOXING (3 issues) for $14.00. Save almost $4.00

BEST BUY

❑ 1 year of BOXING 2002 and WORLD BOXING (6 issues) for 22.97! Save almost $10.00!

Send To:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121

❑ New ❑ Renewal

Indicate Method Of Payment:

❑ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

❑ VISA # _____

❑ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ (MO/YR)

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.____

City _____ State____ Zip____

Price offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all other countries: $14.38 for three issues of Boxing 2002 ($19.48 airmail); $16.40 for three issues of World Boxing ($21.50 airmail); $27.77 for the six-issue combination ($37.97 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds for all orders outside the U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before receiving first issue.

5338/09-01/4c

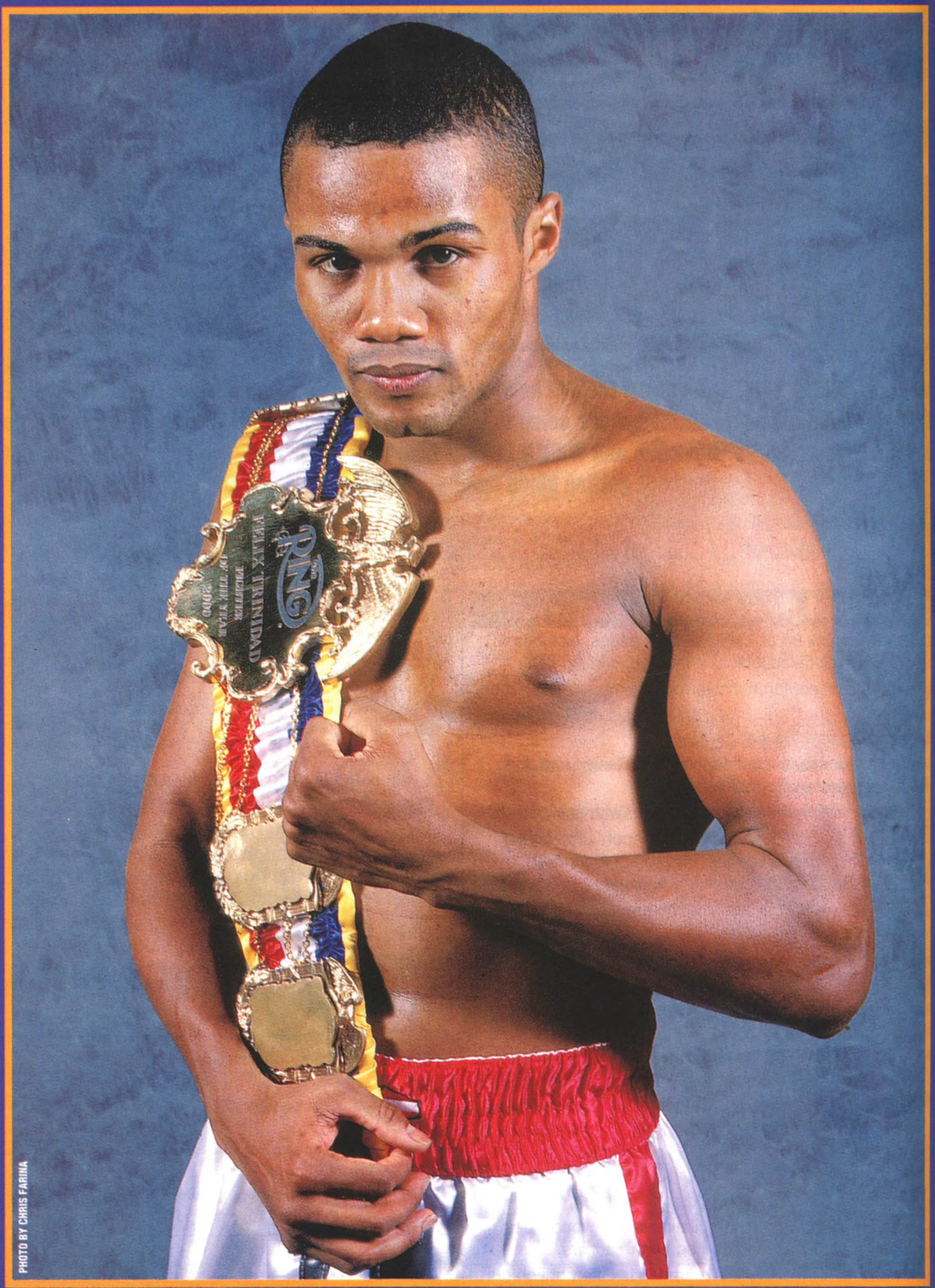
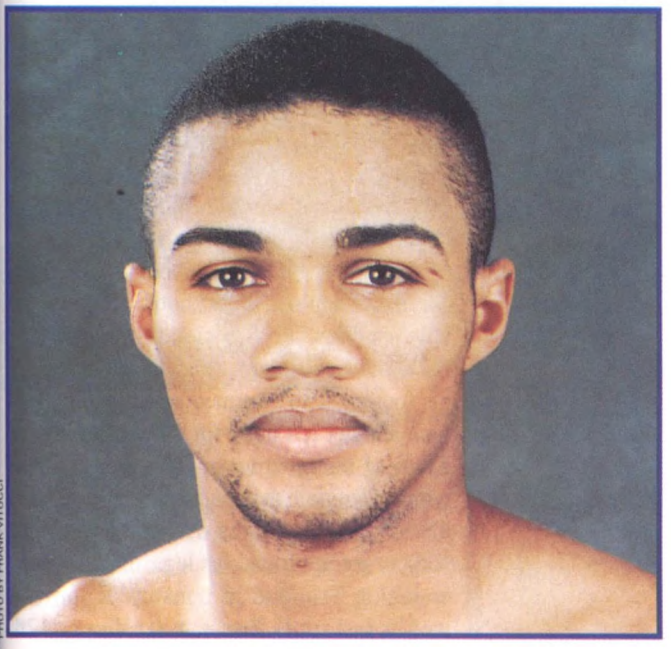


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

FELIX TRINIDAD



Birthdate: January 10, 1973

Birthplace: Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico

Residence: Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico

Weight Class: Middleweight

Height: 5'11"

Reach: 74"

Professional Record: 40-1 (33)

World Titles: IBF welterweight (June 19, 1993-March 3, 2000), WBC welterweight (September 18, 1999-March 3, 2000), WBA super welterweight (March 3, 2000-May 12, 2001), IBF junior middleweight (December 2, 2000-May 12, 2001), WBA middleweight (May 12, 2001-September 29, 2001)

Handlers: Felix Trinidad Sr., trainer/adviser; Yamile Chade, manager

Background: Inspired by his father, Felix Sr., who won the Puerto Rican featherweight championship in '79. Began boxing at age 12 and won five Puerto Rican titles during a 51-6 amateur career. Ironically, for a fighter now considered one of boxing's hardest punchers, "Tito" scored only 12 knockouts as an amateur. Turned pro in March 1990 and won the IBF welterweight title in his 20th outing. Made 15 successful defenses, the last of which was a controversial decision over WBC champ Oscar De La Hoya in September '99. Became two-division champ by capturing WBA super welter title from David Reid in March '00, then defeated IBF titlist Fernando Vargas that December to secure recognition as *The Ring's* 2000 Fighter of the Year. Became first Puerto Rican to ever win a share of the middleweight title with five-round demolition of WBA titleholder William Joppy in May '01.

Style: Aggressive stand-up boxer

Strengths: Punching power, boxing skills, speed, desire to excel, ring smarts, resilience

Weaknesses: Chin, defensive lapses

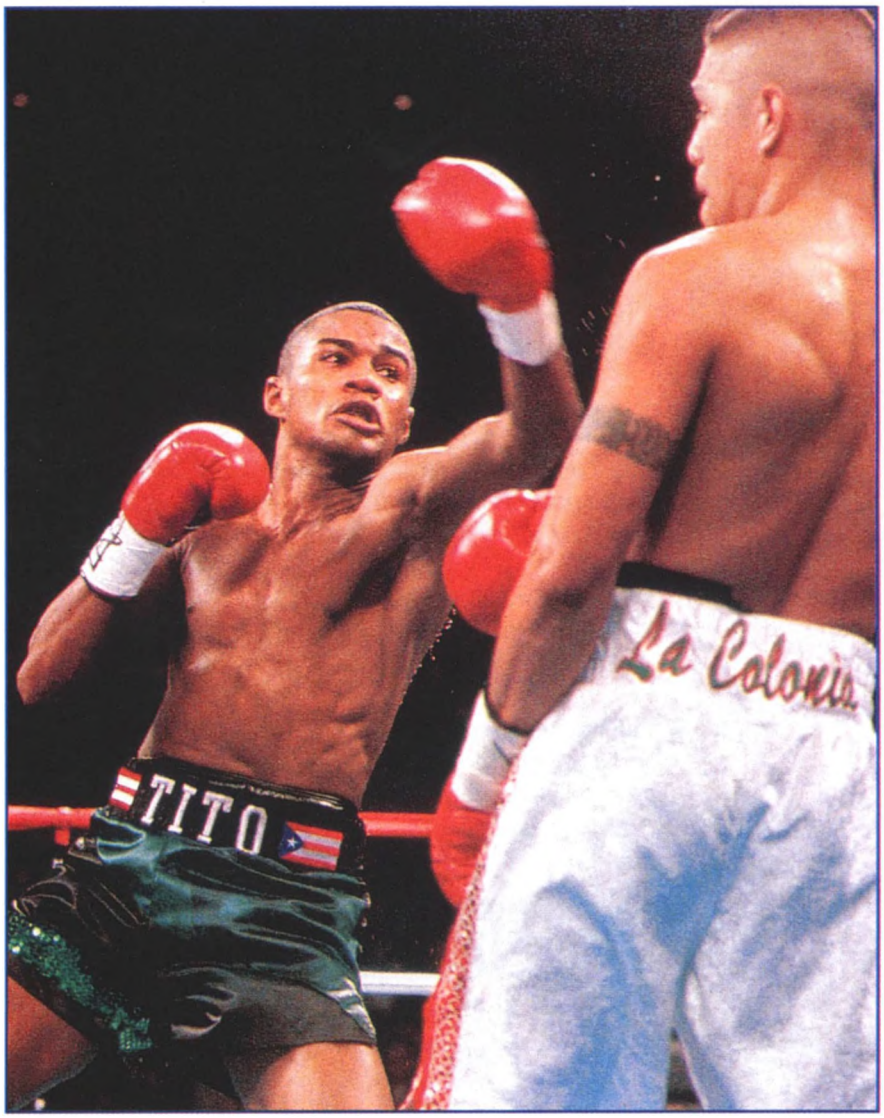
Best Performance: Became the first to defeat Fernando Vargas, knocking down "El Feroz" five times en route to winning by 12th-round kayo in a thrilling bout in December '00.

Worst Performance: Suffered shocking 12th-round TKO loss to Bernard Hopkins in middleweight unification bout at Madison Square Garden on September 29, 2001.

Future: Forget superfight with Roy Jones or a rematch with Oscar De La Hoya for the time being. Needs to rebuild image and confidence following shattering loss to Hopkins.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A-
Power	A
Defense	B
Ring Generalship	A-
Experience	A+
Quality of Opposition	A+
Chin	B
Stamina	A-
Overall Grade	A-

FELIX TRINIDAD'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS



Trinidad takes the fight to Vargas

1 KO 12 Fernando Vargas, December 2, 2000, Las Vegas, Nevada

For the second time in three fights, Trinidad was faced with the daunting task of going up against an undefeated world champion. Nine months earlier, Trinidad had handed Vargas' 1996 Olympic teammate David Reid his first pro setback in winning the WBA super welterweight crown. But in Vargas, the IBF junior middle champ, Trinidad was faced with a tougher challenge.

Vargas was just a few months removed from an impressive unanimous decision victory over Ike Quartey, and was seen as potentially boxing's next true superstar. Many experts were leaning toward slight underdog Vargas because of the combination of Trinidad's dubious chin and Vargas' ability to finish. "El Feroz," however, had never had *his* chin tested against a fearsome puncher like Trinidad.

Within the first 30 seconds of the fight, Trinidad slammed a left hook into Vargas' jaw, sending The Ferocious One down for the first time as a pro. After Vargas regained his footing, Tito swarmed again, nailing him with another left hook for the second knockdown of the opening round. In past fights, when Trinidad dropped an opponent that brutally, the fight was over. Not this time. Vargas got up, found his legs, and was soon engaging Trinidad in nonstop action that would last until Tito's magnificent 12th round. Trinidad dropped Vargas three times in that round, forcing referee Jay Nady to call a halt at the 1:33 mark. Afterward, an emotionally spent Trinidad wept openly at the postfight press conference, saying, "It was my toughest fight." The victory enabled Trinidad to garner his first Fighter of the Year award from *The Ring*.

2 KO 5 William Joppy, May 12, 2001, New York, New York

By the time Trinidad stepped into the ring to fight Joppy before a boisterous crowd at Madison Square Garden, Tito's greatness was no longer in doubt. Joppy, on the other hand, was not regarded as a truly great fighter by anyone. So why was a sizable portion of the media picking Joppy to successfully defend the WBA middleweight title and move on to a unification bout with Bernard Hopkins? Because Trinidad was facing the questions of whether or not he would be able to carry his power from junior middleweight to middleweight, and whether his inconsistent chin would hold up at 160 pounds. It's a proposition that Joppy was counting heavily against, and as a result, he made a huge tactical error.

Coming straight at Trinidad in the hopes of outmuscling him, Joppy went down hard after receiving a lethal left hook in the closing seconds of the first round. Trinidad landed another fierce hook in the fourth, sending Joppy down again. By the fifth, Joppy

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

Trinidad got off the canvas and crushed Campas

was on shaky legs, and Trinidad put him out of his misery by landing a pair of rights that forced the champion to the canvas a third time. Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. stopped the fight at 2:25 of the round, as a dazed Joppy stumbled almost comically about the ring.

The spectacular victory capped off an incredible five-fight streak for Trinidad, spanning three weight classes, in which his opponents boasted a cumulative record of 130-2-1 before running into the Puerto Rican buzzsaw.

3 W 12 Pernell Whitaker, February 20, 1999, New York

As the buzz began to swell for a superbout with Oscar De La Hoya, who had just scored a crucial victory over Ike Quartey, Trinidad need a semifinal-type fight of his own to set up the multimillion-dollar showdown. He found the perfect opponent in the aging but still respected Whitaker. Trinidad had not been in against someone as formidable as Whitaker in over four years, but he came through and handed Whitaker the first thorough loss of his illustrious career.

The surprise of the fight was how aggressively the slick, veteran southpaw fought at the outset. Time had diminished 35-year-old four-division former champ Whitaker's amazing reflexes, but he was still able to tag Trinidad with his jab and a few sharp lefts in round one. The tide of the fight quickly turned in the second, though, when Trinidad landed a quick right hand to Whitaker's chin, sending him sprawling across the canvas. Despite the knockdown and, later, a busted jaw, Whitaker remained competitive until the last four rounds, when he resorted to squatting in the corner to survive Trinidad's attacks. In the end, Trinidad, who connected with more than 50 percent of his punches against probably the greatest defensive fighter of his era, won by scores of 118-109 (twice) and 117-110. Tito also confirmed that he was ready for "The Golden Boy."

4 KO 4 Yory Boy Campas, September 17, 1994, Las Vegas

Before fighting Campas, Trinidad's biggest victories had come against past-their-prime fighters such as Maurice Blocker and Hector Camacho. Campas, on the other hand, was 23 years old and in his prime, and Trinidad's victory over the Mexican was crucial in staking his claim to a spot on the pound-for-pound list.

The powerpunching Campas had an awesome 56-0 (50) record, and with Tito's suspect chin, anything was possible. Campas showed that power in the second round when Trinidad, defending the IBF welterweight title for the fourth time, was plowed over by a short right hand. But as Yory Boy closed in to finish Trinidad, Tito showed the resiliency that would become a trademark, firing off accurate combinations that broke Campas' nose. Two rounds later, Trinidad applied the finishing touches with a fierce two-fisted attack, leaving Campas a bloody mess. There were no complaints when referee Richard Steele saved the challenger at the 2:41 mark of the fourth.

5 W 12 David Reid, March 3, 2000, Las Vegas

Tito had been hinting for some time that he wanted to fight light heavyweight champ Roy Jones. But before he could reach that goal, Trinidad first had to make the move up from welterweight,

Reid didn't like the taste of Trinidad's left hook

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Trinidad comes on late against De La Hoya

where he was struggling to make weight anyway, and win a title at junior middleweight. Reid, the WBA 154-pound champ, was the perfect foil. The '96 Olympic gold medalist was undefeated, yet had only 14 pro fights (in comparison, Trinidad had made 15 world title defenses), and appeared vulnerable in his previous two fights, against Kevin Kelly and Keith Mullings.

Despite the huge disadvantage in experience, Reid was nonetheless a very athletic, dangerous foe, and after the first six rounds, "The American Dream" held a 57-55 edge on all three scorecards. With one potent Trinidad left hook in the seventh, however, Reid's lead—and his legs—disappeared. Reid would hit the floor three more times in the 11th, barely surviving to hear the lopsided scores of 114-107 (twice) and 114-106 in Trinidad's favor. The win not only made Tito a two-division titlist, but it also made him 3-0 against American Olympic gold medalists in a 13-month span.

6 W 12 Oscar De La Hoya, September 18, 1999, Las Vegas

This is a difficult fight to rank. On one hand, it looks impressive on Tito's record that he handed one of the best boxers of his generation his first pro loss. But at the same time, if there was any bout among the first 40 of his career in which Trinidad came away looking less than glorious, this was it. Time has a way of revising what really happened, which is why posterity may label this a crowning moment in Tito's spectacular career, worthy of higher mention. But in reality, the only reason why this fight ranks among Trinidad's best is because of who he beat, not how he beat him.

Many experts felt De La Hoya won the fight, and those who don't still generally felt it was more a case of De La Hoya losing the fight by running during the championship rounds than Trinidad winning it. In the end, though, the fight went down in the books as a majority decision for the man who closed stronger, Trinidad, by scores of 115-113, 115-114, and 114-114.

If there was one positive about the lackluster bout, it was that De La Hoya-Trinidad drew 1.3 million pay-per-view buys, making it the best selling non-heavyweight fight in pay-per-view history—and the third-highest grossing pay-per-view event ever. Consequently, it broadened Trinidad's appeal to a whole new set of American boxing fans.

7 KO 8 Oba Carr, December 10, 1994, Monterrey, Mexico

It wasn't easy, but Trinidad ended an extremely impressive '94 campaign by handing Carr his first defeat. After an uneventful first round, "Motor City" opened the second with a power display befitting of his nickname, motoring all over the unsuspecting Trinidad. Midway through that round, Carr, who entered the fight with a record of 32-0, landed a straight right hand that sent Tito to the canvas. Trinidad simply shook his head and got up with a smile on his face.

The knockdown seemed to awaken Trinidad, and over the next six rounds, he rained powerpunch after powerpunch on Carr, until the challenger dropped three times in the eighth, prompting referee Robert Gonzalez to call a halt to the bout at the 2:41 mark.

8 W 12 Hector Camacho, January 29, 1994, Las Vegas

Nowadays, "The Macho Man" runs on boxing's Senior Circuit, beating up old, flabby former champs (not unlike himself) like Roberto Duran. But in '94, Camacho still presented enough danger to

Camacho cowers against the relentless Trinidad

make this fight with the 21-year-old Puerto Rican champ a curiosity. Defending the IBF welterweight title for the third time, Trinidad was coming off what may have been his worst performance as a pro, struggling with the mediocre Anthony Stephens before finally knocking him out in the 10th. Camacho carried in a respectable 44-2 record, and since losing over the distance to Julio Cesar Chavez, had won his last three fights by knockout. It didn't matter. Camacho went into un-macho mode, clinching, ducking, and retreating, while Tito showed great poise in winning by overwhelming scores of 119-106, 116-110, and 117-109.

9 KO 3 Alberto Cortes, October 3, 1992, Paris, France

Forgotten among the many victories in Trinidad's career is this near-disaster that became a magnificent triumph. It may be obscure to some fans, but it was nonetheless one of the most important bouts in Tito's rise to stardom.

Cortes was 51-3 and a world-class fighter, whereas Trinidad was fighting for only the 16th time as a pro. The Trinidad legend was nearly ruined in the second round, when Cortes floored the Puerto Rican twice. But when Cortes came out to finish Tito in the third, a fired up Trinidad slammed a barrage of punches into the Argentine veteran, forcing a dramatic and impressive stoppage. In the first of what would be many times he would find himself on the canvas, Tito showed what makes him arguably boxing's best fighter in pressure situations.

10 KO 2 Maurice Blocker, June 19, 1993, San Diego, California

The pressing question in the aftermath of Tito's second-round demolition of Blocker to earn his first world title was whether Trinidad was a future superstar, or Blocker was merely a shot fighter primed to lose his belt. Though Blocker may well have been used up, having brutally succumbed to WBC super welterweight champ Terry Norris just four months earlier, the fact remains that Tito has since proven he is the superstar the boxing world saw on that June night in San Diego.

After dominating the opening round, Trinidad emphatically punctuated his title claim with a blistering left hook and straight right hand that dropped Blocker face-first on the canvas. Referee Robert Byrd didn't bother to count over the fallen "Thin Man," stopping the fight at 1:49 of the second and awarding Trinidad the IBF welterweight title he would hold for almost seven years.

"The Thin Man" goes to sleep

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF FELIX TRINIDAD

Roger Turner could only duck against Tito

1990

March 10	Angel Romero, San Juan, Puerto Rico	KO 2
April 7	Israel Ponce, Miramar, Puerto Rico	KO 2
June 21	William Lopez, San Juan	KO 1
July 27	Omar Alegre, Capo d'Orlando, Italy	KO 5
Sept. 6	Jose Vilarino, San Juan	KO 2
Oct. 3	Valentin Ocasio, San Juan	W 6
Nov. 13	Luis Perez, San Juan	KO 2

1991

March 13	Noe Rivera, San Juan	KO 1
May 1	Felix Vazquez, San Juan	KO 3
June 21	Manuel Soles, Miami	KO 5
July 10	Darren McGrew, San Juan	W 10
Oct. 25	Lorenzo Bouie, Miami	KO 1
Dec. 6	Jake Rodriguez, San Juan	W 10

1992

May 3	Raul Gonzalez, San Juan	KO 4
July 18	Joe Alexander, San Juan	KO 1
Oct. 3	Alberto Cortes, Paris	KO 3

1993

Feb. 13	Henry Hughes, San Juan	KO 1
Feb. 20	Pedro Aguirre, Mexico City	KO 4
May 8	Colin Tomlinson, Condado, Puerto Rico	KO 1
June 19	Maurice Blocker, San Diego *(Wins IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 2
Aug. 6	Luis Garcia, Bayamon, Puerto Rico *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 1
Oct. 23	Anthony Stephens, Ft. Lauderdale, FL *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 10

1994

Jan. 29	Hector Camacho, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	W 12
Sept. 17	Yory Boy Campas, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 4
Dec. 10	Oba Carr, Monterrey, Mexico *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 8

It's lights out for Rodney Moore

Trinidad chopped up Fred Pendleton in five

1995

April 8	Roger Turner, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 2
Nov. 18	Larry Barnes, Atlantic City *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 4

1996

Feb. 10	Rodney Moore, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 4
May 18	Fred Pendleton, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 5
Sept. 7	Ray Lovato, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 5

1997

Jan. 11	Kevin Lueshing, Nashville, TN *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 3

Kevin Lueshing falls in three

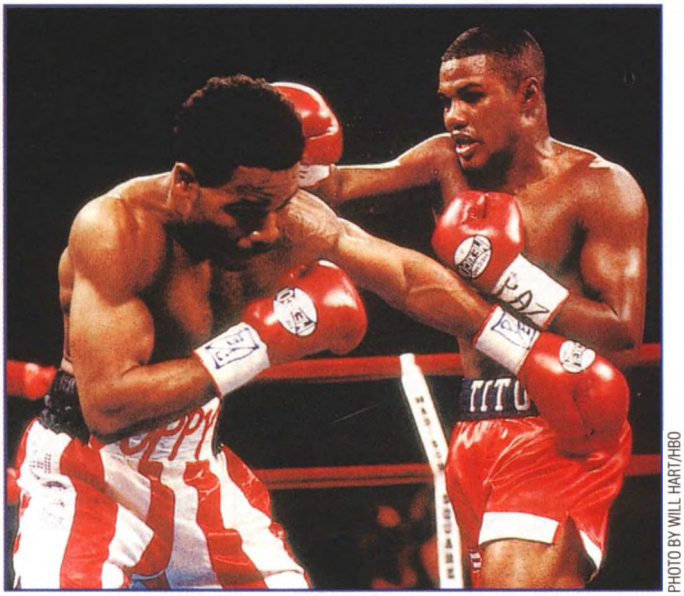


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

William Joppy pays for underestimating Tito's power

Aug. 23	Troy Waters, New York City *(Non-Title Bout)*	KO 1

1998

April 3	Mahenge Zulu, Bayamon *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 4

1999

Feb. 20	Pernell Whitaker, New York City *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	W 12
May 29	Hugo Pineda, San Juan *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title)*	KO 4
Sept. 18	Oscar De La Hoya, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Welterweight Title; Wins WBC Welterweight Title)*	W 12

2000

March 3	David Reid, Las Vegas *(Wins WBA Super Welterweight Title)*	W 12
July 22	Mamadou Thiam, Miami *(Retains WBA Super Welterweight Title)*	KO 3
Dec. 2	Fernando Vargas, Las Vegas *(Retains WBA Super Welterweight Title; Wins IBF Junior Middleweight Title)*	KO 12

2001

May 12	William Joppy, New York City *(Wins WBA Middleweight Title)*	KO 5
Sept. 29	Bernard Hopkins, New York City *(For Unified Middleweight Title)*	KO by 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
41	40	1	0	33

MEMORABLE QUOTES

King saw greatness in Trinidad since early on

"I think Felix Trinidad is a potential superstar. I thought that finish was of the ilk of a Sugar Ray Robinson. I thought Felix was phenomenal. He got knocked down with a short punch by Campas, and when he got up, he went to work calculatingly and methodically, with the left hooks and right hands hitting right on the button, and beat his man into submission. We've got great plans for him."

—1994, Don King, Trinidad's promoter, after Tito came off the canvas to knock out Yory Boy Campas

"Every time I see it, I give myself another round. I thought it was worse than it was, that he was hitting me with a lot of shots, but after seeing the tape, I saw he never hit me solid once. Check that; he got me with one solid shot—after the bell."

—1999, Oscar De La Hoya several weeks after his controversial loss to Trinidad

De La Hoya didn't feel he lost to Tito

"The main thing Fernando has to remember about Trinidad is that he's a very dirty fighter. He does whatever he has to do to win—hit you in the cup, hit you on the break, use his elbows, whatever it takes, which is what a great champion is supposed to do."

—2000, Trinidad victim David Reid commenting on what '96 Olympic teammate Fernando Vargas should beware of with Trinidad

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

"Don't ever touch my flag again"

"Trinidad is like creeping death. Eventually, he catches up to you and you pay."

—2001, New York Daily News *boxing writer Tim Smith*

"He's like a surgeon. Discombobulate you to the cranium and then discombobulate you to the spleen! Just like seeing a doctor operate."

—2001, King commenting to Sports Illustrated *on Trinidad's ability*

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Felix Sr. sees his son one day retiring as the best ever

"Tito should do three more fights—Joppy, Jones, and another fight—and then retire as the best boxer in the history of the sport."

—2001, Felix Trinidad Sr. discussing his son's future

"What he's biting into is a real biter."

—2001, undisputed light heavyweight champ Roy Jones commenting on whether or not Trinidad is biting off more than he can chew in challenging him

"I respect your flag, I do not respect your face."

—2001, Tito to Bernard Hopkins several months prior to their middleweight unification showdown

"My Puerto Rican flag is the only thing that I don't allow anyone to touch or throw to the floor. You will pay a high price for that. Don't ever touch my flag again. You are a stupid man. After I finish with you I will take you to the dentist. I will knock your teeth out. I am going to slap you like a small baby, like a little boy."

—2001, Trinidad's reaction to Bernard Hopkins grabbing a Puerto Rican flag out of Tito's hands and throwing it to the ground during their press junket ■

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine,* the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: kRiddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Plus: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Plus: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Plus: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Plus: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Plus: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chazez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Plus: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Plus: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Plus: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Plus: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Plus: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame, stagnation.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Plus: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayeather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Plus: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Plus: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Plus: Vitaly Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Plus: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Plus: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Plus: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitaly Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Plus: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Plus: Clifford Etienne, overhyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Plus: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Plus: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Plus: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Plus: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

☐ JUN/95	☐ MAR/97	☐ AUG/98	☐ JUN/99	☐ MAR/00	☐ APR/01
☐ MAR/96	☐ AUG/97	☐ SEP/98	☐ JUL/99	☐ MAY/00	☐ JUN/01
☐ JUN/96	☐ NOV/97	☐ OCT/98	☐ AUG/99	☐ JUN/00	☐ AUG/01
☐ JUL/96	☐ DEC/97	☐ NOV/98	☐ SEP/99	☐ JUL/00	☐ OCT/01
☐ SEP/96	☐ HOL/97	☐ DEC/98	☐ OCT/99	☐ AUG/00	☐ DEC/01
☐ NOV/96	☐ JAN/98	☐ HOL/98	☐ NOV/99	☐ SEP/00	
☐ DEC/96	☐ FEB/98	☐ JAN/99	☐ DEC/99	☐ OCT/00	
☐ WIN/96	☐ MAR/98	☐ FEB/99	☐ HOL/99	☐ NOV/00	
☐ JAN/97	☐ MAY/98	☐ MAR/99	☐ JAN/00	☐ DEC/00	
☐ FEB/97	☐ JUN/98	☐ MAY/99	☐ FEB/00	☐ FEB/01	

KO MAGAZINE

ONLY $5 EACH

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full.

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

5764/09-01

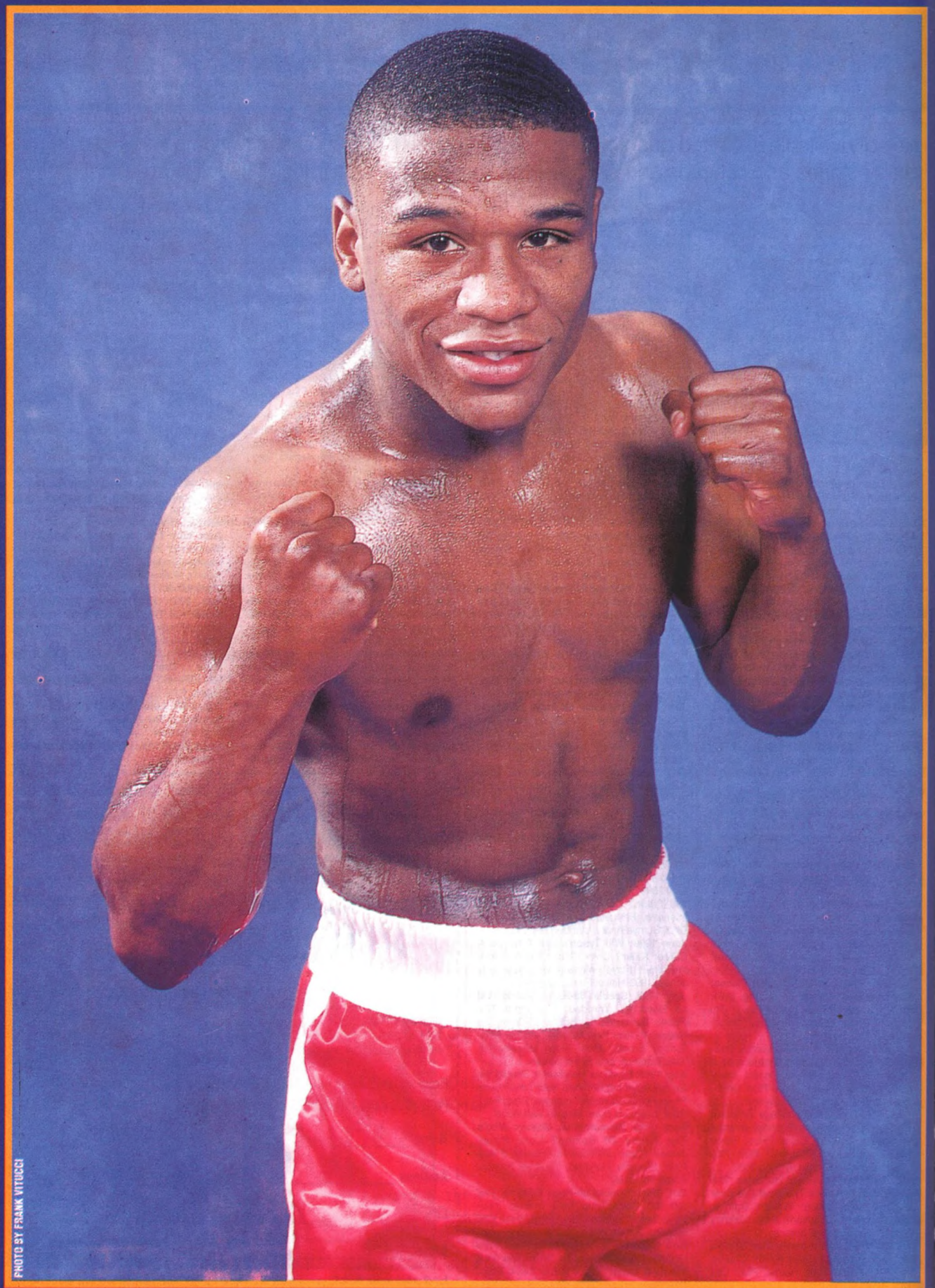


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Floyd Mayweather

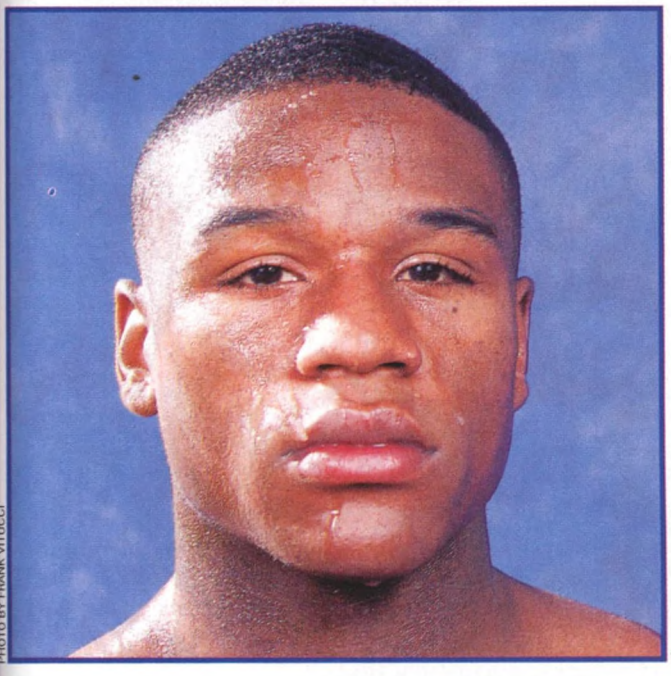


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Birthdate: February 24, 1977

Birthplace: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Residence: Las Vegas, Nevada

Weight Class: Junior Lightweight

Height: 5'8"

Reach: 72"

Professional Record: 26-0 (19)

World Title: WBC super featherweight (October 3, 1998-present)

Handlers: James Prince, manager; Roger Mayweather, trainer

Background: Born into a boxing family—father Floyd Sr. and uncles Jeff and Roger (a two-division former champion) all fought professionally. Outstanding 84-6 amateur career included three National Golden Gloves championships and a bronze medal at the 1996 Olympics. Turned pro in October '96 under the Top Rank promotional banner. Rapid rise through the ranks led to winning the WBC 130-pound belt in just his 18th pro start. In just his second full year as a pro, earned *The Ring's* 1998 Fighter of the Year award. Has made seven successful defenses and is widely considered one of the best fighters, pound-for-pound, in the world. Dispute with his father, Top Rank, and HBO in late-'99 slowed career temporarily. Dropped father as trainer, and has been using Uncle Roger instead since late-'00.

Style: Flashy, aggressive stand-up boxer

Strengths: Hand and foot speed, boxing skills, defense, confidence

Weaknesses: Lack of one-punch kayo power, injury-prone hands

Best Performance: Backed up prefight talk by smashing previously undefeated Diego Corrales in January '01, scoring five knockdowns before winning by 10th-round stoppage.

Worst Performance: Looked lackluster after injuring both hands against Carlos Hernandez in May '01, but pulled out a decision win. Knocked down for the first time as a pro when a hurt hand caused him to touch down in pain.

Future: Intends to move up to lightweight after October 6 defense against Jesus Chavez. Should dominate 135-pound division—if his hands are healthy.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A+
Power	B
Defense	A+
Ring Generalship	A+
Experience	B+
Quality of Opposition	A-
Chin	A+
Stamina	A+
Overall Grade	A

FLOYD MAYWEATHER'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Mayweather abuses Corrales with superior hand speed

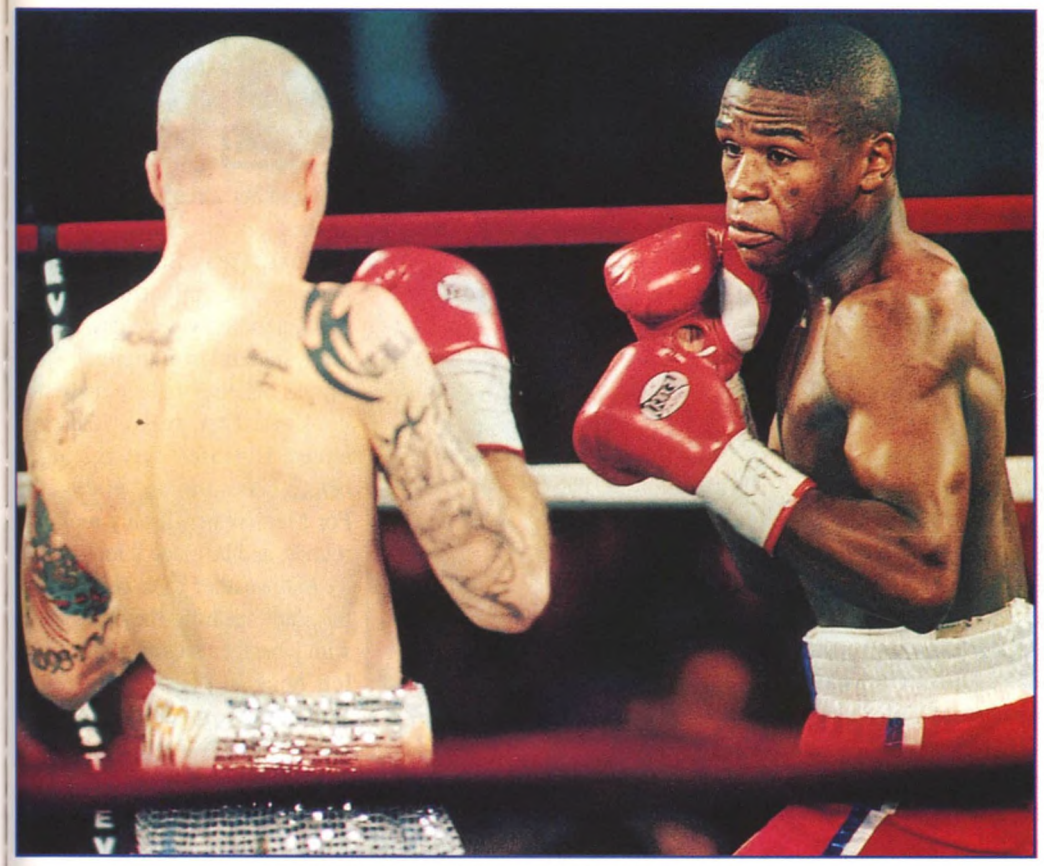
1 KO 10 Diego Corrales, January 20, 2001, Las Vegas, Nevada

Entering the biggest challenge of his career inside the ring, Mayweather was also facing a monumental challenge outside the ring: the need to resurrect his image. "Pretty Boy" was engaged in a nasty and very public dispute with his father and former trainer, Floyd Sr., and instigated even more conflict by mouthing off about spousal abuse charges Corrales was facing in connection to beating his pregnant wife.

For some fighters, these sort of distractions might have thrown them off their game. Not Mayweather. Corrales was no match for Mayweather's blinding speed, and after outboxing and frustrating his opponent for the first six rounds, Mayweather used a punishing left hook to floor Corrales three times in the seventh. Pretty Boy had Corrales in dire straits again in the 10th, knocking "Chico" down two more times. After the fifth knockdown of the fight, Ray Woods, Corrales' trainer and stepfather, threw in the towel. One challenge was overcome, and the other challenge—the image issue—took a step in the right direction when Mayweather ended the show with an emotional embrace with his father.

2 KO 8 Genaro Hernandez, October 3, 1998, Las Vegas

Rumors swirled that Top Rank chief Bob Arum was opposed to the idea of pitting his prized prospect against the respected veteran Hernandez,



Pretty Boy needed just two rounds to get rid of Manfredy

let's face it: Genaro Hernandez did not come to fight," said Manfredy. "He gave the belt to Mayweather. It's easy to look good against someone who ain't fighting you back."

Well, Manfredy was fighting back, and Mayweather still looked damned good. After a startlingly quick right hand rocked Manfredy in the last minute of the second round, Mayweather moved in along the ropes behind a barrage of combinations. Referee Frank Santore looked in as Manfredy stood frozen against the ropes, and with the challenger failing to punch back, called a halt at the 2:47 mark of the second. Mayweather's outstanding showing, coupled with the Hernandez win, earned him *The Ring's* 1998 Fighter of the Year award.

who had never lost a fight at 130 pounds. But Mayweather wanted to become the first of the '96 Olympians to capture a world title, and Uncle Bob chose not to stand in the way.

Though only 21 years old, Mayweather had no problem telling anyone willing to listen that he was among the best pound-for-pound fighters in the world. Pretty Boy then went out and confirmed it when he captured the WBC super featherweight title by dominating Hernandez. By the second round, it was apparent that "Chicanito" could not keep up with the blazing hand speed of Mayweather. Pretty Boy rattled Hernandez with four- and five-punch combinations throughout the middle rounds. By the eighth, Hernandez realized he was far behind on the scorecards and tried an all-out assault on the quicker challenger, only to have Mayweather slip away and counter back. Hernandez, thoroughly defeated, refused to answer the bell for the ninth. CompuBox stats proved Mayweather's dominance: Pretty Boy landed 221 punches, compared to Hernandez' 103.

3 KO 2 Angel Manfredy, December 19, 1998, Miami, Florida

Newly crowned world champions usually avoid tough challenges in their first title defense. Not Mayweather. Fresh from winning the WBC title, Mayweather wanted to face the best contender available, and that was Manfredy. Despite Mayweather's awesome title-winning performance against Hernandez, "El Diablo" was not about to give Pretty Boy his due.

"Mayweather fought a good fight against Hernandez ... but

4 KO 7 Carlos Gerena, September 11, 1999, Las Vegas

Before the fight, Mayweather said that his long-range goal was to win world titles in the 130-, 135-, 140-, and 147-pound weight classes. After this masterful performance, nobody was doubting that Mayweather had the potential to achieve that goal.

Mayweather wasted little time in establishing his superiority over the game but outgunned Gerena. Making his fourth defense of the WBC super featherweight title, Mayweather downed Gerena with a right cross in the first, and wobbled Gerena again with a left uppercut in the seventh. With Mayweather holding a lopsided lead after seven, referee Richard Steele called a halt to the bout.

"I'm only chasing champions from now on," said Mayweather, whose dazzling display drew comparisons to one of the greatest champions of all-time, Sugar Ray Robinson, from one of the greatest trainers ever, Eddie Futch.

5 KO 9 Emanuel Burton, October 21, 2000, Detroit, Michigan

Mayweather had slipped in most people's ratings, surpassed by Diego Corrales as the top 130-pounder in the world. He was coming off the longest layoff (seven months) of his professional career, and during that span, Pretty Boy lost his glitter as a rising star and was struggling to get back into the consciousness of boxing fans. Mayweather chose a tough journeyman to do it against in Burton. Though he controlled the fight and won every round,

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

Mayweather suffered from ring rust against Burton

Mayweather still showed signs of ring rust, suffering a bloody nose and taking more shots than he ever had as a pro.

"Both of my hands were messed up and I was still fighting," Mayweather said after winning by ninth-round stoppage. "It showed I could fight under pressure."

7 KO 9 Justin Juuko, May 22, 1999, Las Vegas

Just three fights into his title reign, Mayweather already seemed to be running out of quality opponents. In Juuko, Pretty Boy was facing a good, tough opponent who took the fight on only three days notice, after scheduled opponent Goyo Vargas pulled out claiming he was ill. A year later, Juuko would give Diego Corrales a rough night before being stopped in the 10th. For Mayweather, it only took nine rounds, and he made it look easy.

Mayweather took charge from the start, spearing the taller Juuko with jabs, then stunning him with a left hook in the opening round. When Juuko tried to mount an offense behind a steady stream of jabs, Mayweather easily evaded the challenger's charge. At one point, Mayweather let Juuko come inside, then slipped every punch his rival threw. In the ninth, a pair of right hands finally dropped Juuko, and referee Mitch Halpern counted the Ugandan out at 1:20 of the round.

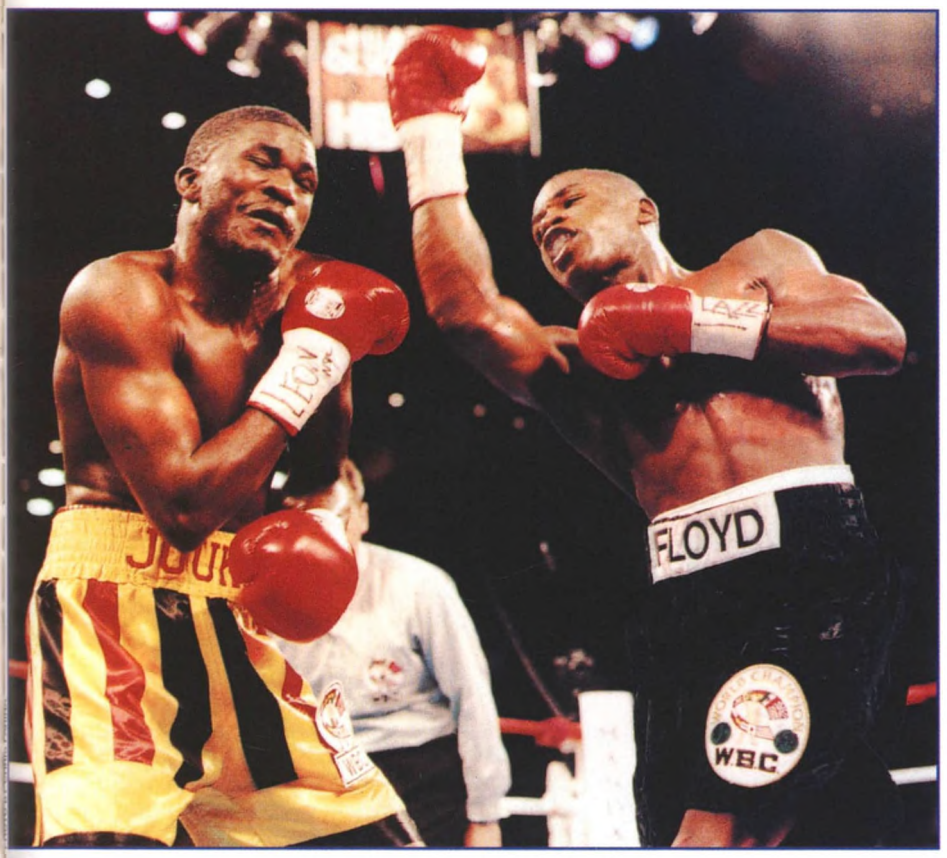
6 W 12 Goyo Vargas, March 18, 2000, Las Vegas

In some respects, this was not one of Mayweather's finest hours. He was never really close to winning by knockout, and the crowd at the MGM Grand showered him with boos during portions of the fight. But on the other hand, he did completely dominate an established former world champion, and he did so after six months of inactivity and with an injured right hand.

Though not everything was clicking offensively, Mayweather put on a virtuoso defensive display in fending off the challenge of Vargas by lopsided scores of 118-109 and 119-108 (twice). Vargas could do little to trap the quicker Mayweather, but Pretty Boy never really had Vargas in trouble either, except for when he knocked him down with a bodyshot in the sixth. Still, as usual, Mayweather won easily against a world-class opponent.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Vargas has to cover up against Mayweather's barrages



A Mayweather uppercut has Juuko wincing

about ambition; Mayweather only had one successful defense under his belt coming into this fight.

Pretty Boy made a grand return to his hometown, giving 12,696 fans at the Van Andel Arena nearly everything they came to see. Determined to put on a show, Mayweather was an offensive machine, despite the stubbornness of Rios. Though he failed to put Rios away, Mayweather's speed and skill advantages helped him win by scores of 119-109, 120-110, and 120-109.

10 KO 2 Luis Leija, September 6, 1997, El Paso, Texas

Not all Mayweathers are created equal. For example, there's a huge talent gap between Pretty Boy Floyd and, say, his Uncle Jeff. The same goes for Leijas, as there's also a talent gap between Luis and his cousin, Jesse James. Nevertheless, Leija was supposed to be the toughest test of Mayweather's then-10-fight-old career. But it didn't work out that way.

Just a minute into the first round, Mayweather countered a jab with a quick right hand and knocked Leija down. Hometown favorite Leija survived the round, but in the second, a counter right produced knockdown number two, and after a followup flurry, the fight was waved off just 23 seconds into the round.

8 W 10 Tony Pep, June 14, 1998, Atlantic City, New Jersey

This was Mayweather's final test before his title bout with Genaro Hernandez. Veteran Pep was a tall, rangy boxer who could not match Mayweather's hand speed, but possessed enough craftiness to make Mayweather work for the win. Facing Pep proved to be the perfect dress rehearsal for the main show against Hernandez, and Pretty Boy dominated Pep easily by scores of 99-91 and 100-90 (twice). Pep was only able to land only 14 percent of his punches, while Mayweather connected at a 51 percent rate, according to CompuBox.

9 W 12 Carlos Rios, February 19, 1999, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Before the fight, Mayweather announced that his long-range goal was to snap Joe Louis' record of 25 consecutive successful title defenses. Talk

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Pretty Boy closed the distance quickly against Pep

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF FLOYD MAYWEATHER

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Mayweather takes Genaro Hernandez apart

Carlos Rios could not catch Pretty Boy

1996

Oct. 11	Robert Apodaca, Las Vegas	KO 2
Nov. 30	Reggie Sanders, Albuquerque, NM	W 4

1997

Jan. 18	Jerry Cooper, Las Vegas	KO 1
Jan. 31	Edgar Ayala, Chula Vista, CA	KO 2
March 12	Kino Rodriguez, Grand Rapids, MI	KO 1
April 12	Bobby Geipert, Las Vegas	KO 1
May 9	Tony Duran, Las Vegas	KO 1
June 14	Larry O'Shields, San Antonio, TX	W 6
July 12	Jesus Chavez, Biloxi, MS	KO 4
Sept. 6	Luis Leija, El Paso, TX	KO 2
Oct. 14	Felipe Garcia, Boise, ID	KO 6
Nov. 20	Angelo Nunez, Los Angeles	KO 3

1998

Jan. 9	Hector Arroyo, Biloxi	KO 5
Feb. 28	Sam Girard, Atlantic City	KO 2
March 23	Miguel Melo, Ledyard, CT	KO 3
April 17	Gustavo Cuello, Los Angeles	W 10
June 14	Tony Pep, Atlantic City	W 10

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Justin Juuko gets stung by a Mayweather right

Mayweather on the attack against Carlos Gerena

Oct. 3	Genaro Hernandez, Las Vegas	KO 8
	(Wins WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
Dec. 19	Angel Manfredy, Miami	KO 2
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	

1999

Feb. 17	Carlos Rios, Grand Rapids	W 12
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
May 22	Justin Juuko, Las Vegas	KO 9
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
Sept. 11	Carlos Gerena, Las Vegas	KO 7
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	

2000

March 18	Goyo Vargas, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
Oct. 21	Emanuel Burton, Detroit, MI	KO 9
	(Non-Title Bout)	

2001

Jan. 20	Diego Corrales, Las Vegas	KO 10
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	
May 26	Carlos Hernandez, Grand Rapids	W 12
	(Retains WBC Super Featherweight Title)	

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
26	26	0	0	19

Mayweather rattles Diego Corrales

MEMORABLE QUOTES

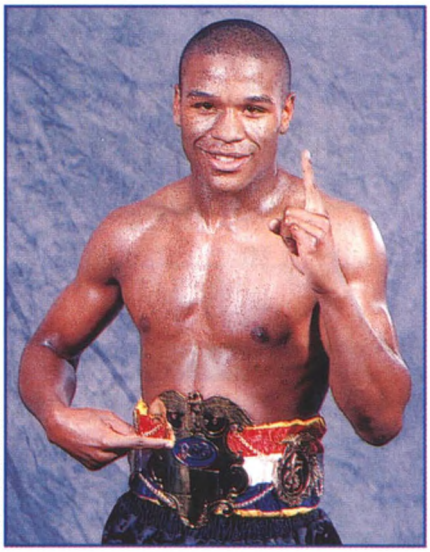


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Pretty Boy wasn't number one after the "slave contract" remark

"That's a slave contract, compared to what Prince Hamed is making."

—1999, Mayweather referring to the $12.5-million, six-fight deal HBO offered

"This kid should be a superstar because he has everything, but Madison Avenue doesn't want to touch a guy who says a $12.5-million contract is a slave contract. There are a lot of bad connotations to that. But Floyd, I don't think, thinks about what he says sometimes. What he should have thought more about is what all this is doing to his family. He can achieve so much in this sport, but when boxing is all over and done with, he may not have one family member he can sit and talk to."

—2000, Uncle Jeff Mayweather, commenting on the "slave contract" remark

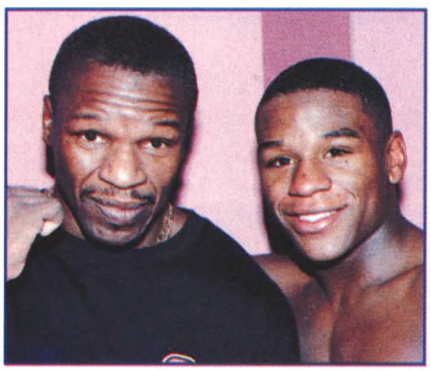


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Mayweather took more heat for booting his father

"I feel it's like this: I turned off the money and I'm the villain. This guy Diego Corrales allegedly cracks his wife in the ribs and she's pregnant, and I'm the bad guy. The only thing I'm looking forward to doing is winning. Either people are going to see me win, or they're going to come out just to see me lose. The main thing is that they're paying to see me."

—2000, Mayweather on the negative image that built up during his seventh-month layoff between fights

"If Floyd had gone about his business in the ring, his bombast and self-congratulations would be perceived as just another fighter congratulating himself, and people wouldn't have minded as much. He rained on his own parade, and people started having a different view of him. He suddenly went from a smiling, talented kid to what people thought of as spoiled. I don't know if you ever turn around that image, but winning cures a lot of things."

—2000, HBO color analyst Larry Merchant, on Mayweather's decreasing popularity

"I'm going to beat Diego Corrales for all the battered women across America."

—2001, Mayweather commenting on Corrales' assault on his pregnant wife

"I can look at a fighter's eyes and I can tell: Diego Corrales don't really want to fight

HBO analyst Larry Merchant wondered where Pretty Boy stood with the fans

me. I know. It's being forced upon him."

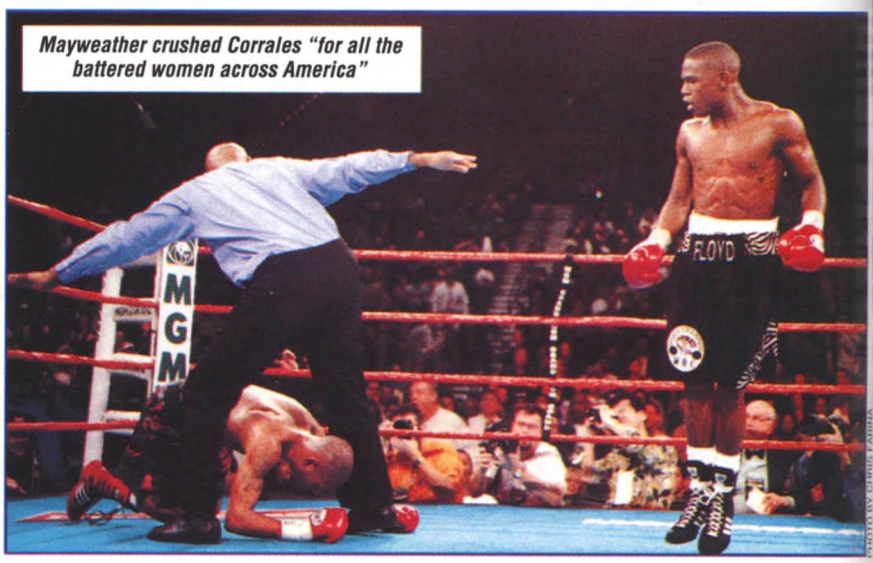
—2001, Mayweather before the Corrales fight

"If any fights fall out, just tell 'em Floyd Mayweather will be happy to fill in. It's no problem. All I want to do is fight."

—2001, Mayweather on his future after his victory over Diego Corrales

"I wanted to give an all-out war. I wanted to give the fans a war for their money. But I couldn't give my fans a good fight, because my damn hands are killing me. I wanted to get my knockout, but I was hurt. I was hurt bad."

—2001, Mayweather after the Carlos Hernandez victory



Mayweather crushed Corrales "for all the battered women across America"

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/2001

Beginning in 1988, this popular magazine went to an all-new format, featuring a fresh look at the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers. "The Fight Fan's Magazine" has, since that time, earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around.

1988: Why Marvin Hagler Must Return, By Ray Leonard. Also: Roberto Duran, Vinny ienza, Darrin Van Horn, Marlon Starling, field-Qawi preview.

1988: Mike Tyson: Awesome When It nts. Also: Pazienza-Haugen, Matthew Hilton, Witherspoon, guide to heavyweights.

1988: A Look Back At '87, And A Look ad To '88. Also: Bobby Czyz, Julio Cesar vez, Tyson-Holmes preview.

1988: Thomas Hearns: Why He Will Beat nard And Hagler ... And Why He Won't. Mike McCallum, Ramirez-Whitaker preview, heavyweights.

1988: Leonard, Hagler, Camacho, Spinks: You Seen These Men? Also: Mike Tyson, ny Lalonde, Wimpy Halstead, Holyfield-per preview.

1988: The Tyson-Spinks Showdown: The ost Critical Questions Of Superfight '88. Greg Haugen, McGirt-Warren, Starling-and II preview.

1988: Tyson's Former Trainer Reveals: chael Spinks Will Knock Out Mike Tyson!" Whitaker-Ramirez, Carlos Zarate, Hearns-ley preview.

1988: Tyson vs. Spinks: Preview & Analy- Of Superfight '88. Also: Haugen-Santana, er Mayweather, Julio Cesar Chavez, super-ts.

1988: A Revealing Look At Boxing's Best Worst. Also: Dennis Andries, Calvin Grove, -Nunn preview.

1988: No Doubts Remain: Mike Tyson ents Spinks For The Undisputed Champion-p. Also: Thomas Hearns, Davey Moore, gen-Rosario preview, deserving and undeserv- contenders.

1988: Mike Tyson vs. The Heavyweight ats: Ali, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano. Also: ndo Canizales, John Mugabi, Evander field, Ray Mancini, Chavez-Ramirez preview.

1988: Leonard vs. Lalonde: Can Sugar Actually Lose? Also: Michael Spinks, Mich- Nunn, Julian Jackson, fighters in peril.

1989: Tyson vs. Bruno: A Mismatch No ger? Also: Vito Antuofermo, Orlin Norris, key ments in boxing history, Louie Lomeli, Michael rer.

1989: A Look Back At '88, And A Look ad To '89. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas ns, Darrin Van Horn, Haugen-Whitaker pre-w.

1989: Will Tyson Survive 1989? A Boxing Debate. Also: Frank Bruno, Evander Holyfield, m Dafoe.

1989: Born Again ... Again: Duran Con- s Barkley. Also: Tyson-Bruno, Olympians, my Gallagher, Chavez-Mayweather preview.

1989: Sugar Ray Robinson: Photographic ute To The Master. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Breland, Richard Steele, Tyson-Williams pre-w.

1989: 10 Reasons Why Thomas Hearns ished Ray Leonard. Also: Michael Moorer, ndo Canizales, Al Braverman, Chavez-Taylor iew.

1990: Who Should Tyson Fight: Evander field Or George Foreman? Also: Pernell aker, Felt Forum, Ross Greenburg, Leonard-n preview.

Sept. 1990: The Light Heavyweights' Star-Studded Future. Also: Starling-Nunn, Tracy Spann, George Benton, John L. Sullivan, Tyson-Foreman preview.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: It's Coming! Also: Bobby Czyz, Jeff Lampkin, Sean O'Grady, Bob Fitzsimmons, Nunn-Curry preview.

Jan. 1991: No More Lightweight Concerns: Is Pernell Whitaker The Man To Beat Chavez? Also: Aaron Davis, Pazienza-Haugen III, Roberto Duran, Bill Parcells, Tommy Burns, Williams-Moorer preview.

March 1991: Who Will Survive In 1991? Also: Holyfield-Douglas, Nunn-Curry, Buddy McGirt, Jess Willard, Nelson-Fenech preview.

May 1991: The Heavyweight Division: Alive And Punching. Also: Simon Brown, Marcos Villasana, Year That Was: 1964, Gene Tunney, Chavez-Taylor preview.

July 1991: Terry Norris Defeats A Legend, But Can He Become A Star? Also: Julian Jackson, Camacho-Haugen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jack Sharkey, McCallum-Nunn preview.

Sept. 1991: It Was No Joke: Rev. George Makes Believers Of Us All. Also: Jerry Buss, Max Baer, Reggie Johnson, Riddick Bowe, Tommy Morrison, Bruce Seldon, Michael Moorer, Jake Rodriguez.

Nov. 1991: Ruddock Stood Tall, But Holyfield Will Fall: Mike Tyson Still Has What It Takes. Also: Kid Akeem, superstitions, would-be superstars, Joe Louis, Hearns-Czyz preview.

Jan. 1992: The Holyfield-Tyson Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '91. Also: Riddick Bowe, Great Western Forum, Bobby Czyz.

May 1992: Boxing's Four-Star Future: Toney, Bowe, Norris, And McGirt. Also: McCallum-Toney, Junior Jones, Sonny Liston, Year That Was: 1980, Chavez-McGirt preview.

July 1992: Larry "Old Folk" Holmes: A One-Fight Wonder Or A Real Title Threat? Also: Mike Tyson, Vinny Pazienza, Toney-Tiberi, Joe Frazier, McGirt-Taylor II preview.

Sept. 1992: Foreman, Get Out Now! Before You Get Seriously Hurt! Also: Greg Haugen, Gerald McClellan, Julio Cesar Chavez, Toney-Jackson, history of the heavyweights.

Nov. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes: Should We Have Expected Anything More? Also: Joey Gamache, Lamar Parks, Toney & Jackson, The Year That Was: 1968, Hall of Fame weekend, McGirt-Blocker preview.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: *Finally*, A Real Challenge For "The Real Deal." Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Carbajal, cruiserweights, Senate hearings.

March 1993: The Heavyweight Hangers-On: Former Champions Dream The Impossible Dream. Also: Roberto Duran, Jesse James Leija, champions stay/go, The Year That Was: 1956.

May 1993: Heavyweight Champion Riddick Bowe: *Boxing 93* Names The Man Who Will Beat Him! Also: Vinny Pazienza, Whitaker-McGirt preview, 1992: The Year In Pictures.

July 1993: The Undisputed Bad Boy Of Boxing: James Toney Whips Iran Barkley. Also: Tony Lopez, Kostya Tszyu, Julio Cesar Chavez, The Year That Was: 1977, Roy Jones-Bernard Hopkins.

March 1994: Do Today's Heavyweights Stink? *Boxing 94* Analyzes The Question ... The Answer May Shock You! Also: Benn-Eubank II, trainers' secrets, Brad Jacobs, McKinney-Patterson preview.

May 1994: Roberto Duran At 100!! (Fights, Not Years) Also: Carbajal-Gonzalez II preview, Kelley-Vargas, Bruce Trampler, People's Choice Heavyweight Tournament.

July 1994: The Moorer-Holyfield War: Our Exclusive Analysis And Prediction: Also: Randall-Chavez I, Eric Holland, The Rematches, James Braddock.

Sept. 1994: Mike Tyson—336 More Days For #922335. Also: Leavander Johnson, lucky losers, Panama Lewis, Ad Wolgast, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, De La Hoya-Molina preview.

Nov. 1994: You Might Not Like This But ... Lennox Lewis Is The Best Heavyweight In The World. Also: Gerald McClellan, Frankie Randall, Roy Jones, Gabe Ruelas-Leija preview.

Dec. 1994 (84-Page Special Edition): Boxing And Wrestling Have More In Common Than You Think! Also: The 1980s: Boxing's Greatest Decade, Verno Phillips, Sergei Kobozev, Mike McCallum, Tony Galento, Michael Buffer.

March 1995: An American Love Story: Why We're Crazy About Big George. Also: Danny Romero, 32 stars of tomorrow, Vincent Pettway, Johnny Tocco, Young Stribling, Holmes-McCall preview.

May 1995: '95 Alive! The 10 Fights We'd Like To See. Also: Roy Jones, Bob Lee, Bobby Crabtree, Owen Moran, Vasquez-Whitaker preview.

July 1995: Tyson—The Five Men He Should Fight ... And The Five He Should Avoid. Also: Benn-McClellan, Holyfield-Mercer preview, Arnie Rosenthal.

Jan. 1996: Holyfield Answers The Tough Questions. Also: Wayne McCullough, puncher vs. puncher, Paul Vaden, pay-per-view.

March 1996: Amidst The Confusion ... Bowe Stands Tall. Also: Whitaker vs. Greats, British tragedies, Tim Witherspoon, Frank Warren, Benn-Collins preview.

May 1996: Bruno's Better, Tyson's Worse ... Will It Make A Difference? Also: Arturo Gatti, Gerry Cooney, Frans Botha, Hector Camacho.

July 1996: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Julio Cesar Chavez—Exclusive Analysis & Prediction. Also: Marco Antonio Barrera, Wayne McCullough, Johnny Tapia & Sugar Ray Leonard, Kevin Kelley.

Nov. 1996: Oscar's Hit List. Nobody's Too Tough For "The Golden Boy." Also: Michael Moorer, Gatti-Patterson II preview, Frankie Liles, Kevin Kelley, Henry Akinwande, Archie Moore.

Jan. 1997: Scared Stiff! Seldon Wimps Out Against Tyson. Can Holyfield Reverse The Ugly Trend? Also: Lou Savarese, David Reid, Luis Rodriguez, best bodypunchers, Ali vs. the greats.

May 1997: Evander Holyfield—Five Questions That Must Be Answered. Also: Ray Mercer, Phillip Holiday, Tommy Brooks, Jimmy Braddock, Carmen Basilio.

July 1997: Holyfield-Tyson II: Boxing 97 Analyzes The Richest Fight In History. Also: Oliver McCall, Mark Johnson, Riddick Bowe, top trainers.

Nov. 1997: Holyfield vs. Tyson: Victim As Hero—A Story of Grace And Disgrace. Also: Marvin Hagler, *Boxing After Dark*, Camacho-De La Hoya preview.

Jan. 1998: Holyfield vs. The All-Time Greats. Also: Holmes-Foreman, Hector Lopez, Omar Sheika.

March 1998: Evander's Road To Unification: Tyson, Moorer Down—Lewis Is Next! Also: Joe Calzaghe, Oliver McCall, Lopez-Quartey.

May 1998: Five Greatest Stars And Their Greatest Threats: Also: 10 Best Fights of 1997 (color), Battling Siki.

July 1998: Boxing's 20 Most Frequently Asked Questions! Also: Danny Romero, Stevie Johnston, Fernando Vargas.

Sept. 1998: The Battle Of The Superstars! Why De La Hoya's Always A Step Ahead Of Jones. Also: Thomas Tate, Vargas-Reid preview, Keith Mullings, Carl Thompson, Frazier-Marciano fantasy, heavyweight prospects.

Nov. 1998: Kennedy McKinney vs. Naseem Hamed: Can The King Dethrone The Prince? Also: Gerry Penalosa, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Zulfia Koutdussova, Quartey-Trinidad preview.

Jan. 1999: Boxing Insiders Poll: Is Michael Grant The Next Great Heavyweight? Also: Mike Tyson, Robinson-Gatti I, Mosley-Phillips preview, Razor Ruddock, middleweights, Vitali & Wladimir Klitschko.

March 1999: The Secret Of Mike Tyson's Enduring Popularity. Also: Sharmba Mitchell, Holyfield-Lewis preview, John Brown, Roberto Garcia.

May 1999: What Boxing Fans Have To Look Forward To! Also: Arturo Gatti, Antonio Tarver, 1998 in review.

July 1999: After Coming Off The Floor To Beat Quartey ... Now, Even Oscar's Convinced. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Jesse Ferguson, Lou Del Valle, one-punch knockouts.

Sept. 1999: The Numbers Don't Lie: A Statistical Analysis Of Boxing's Best: Also: Lennox Lewis, Tony Ayala, Hasim Rahman.

Nov. 1999: George Foreman vs. Mike Tyson: It's So Crazy, It Just Might Work! Also: Grant-Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Trinidad, John Ruiz, Max Kellerman.

Jan. 2000: The Best (And Worst) Of Everything. Also: Eric Morrel, Erik & Diego Morales, Stevie Johnston, Tszyu-Gonzalez.

March 2000: The 10 Fights That Must Be Made! Also: Mike Tyson, Lonnie Bradley, Naseem Hamed, Laila Ali.

May 2000: Bernard Hopkins: "Just Because I Can Fight Doesn't Mean I Can't Think." Also: Klitschko brothers, Randall Bailey, Erik Morales, Vargas-Quartey preview.

July 2000: The Junior Welterweight Division: The Class Of Boxing. Also: Morales, Barrera, Trinidad-Reid, Beau Jack.

Sept. 2000: Lennox Lewis Is Unstoppable! Also: Antonio Diaz, Will Taylor, Mayweather-Corrales preview, fantasy tournament.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING JANUARY 2001]

Jan. 2001: Looking For That Crossover Superstar: Can Sugar Shane Put A "Tiger" In Boxing's Tank? Also: Zab Judah, Lou Del Valle, Eric Morel, 1975 vs. 2000, Lewis-Tua preview.

May 2001: Is Lennox Lewis Unbeatable? These Six Heavyweights Say "No!" Also: Felix Trinidad, Hamed-Barrera preview, Lawrence Clay-Bey, John Ruiz, 2000 in review.

AKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

ONDON PUBLISHING CO.
O. BOX 910
T. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 Each

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____
U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full.

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name_____

Address_____Apt._____

City_____State_____Zip_____

r all orders except the U.S., you must add one $1.50 for every back issue to be shipped by surface mail, and $3 for every back issue be shipped airmail. Int'l money in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

BOXING 88/2001

☐ JAN/88	☐ JUL/89	☐ SEP/92	☐ JAN/96	☐ JAN/99
☐ FEB/88	☐ SEP/89	☐ NOV/92	☐ MAR/96	☐ MAR/99
☐ MAR/88	☐ NOV/89	☐ JAN/93	☐ MAY/96	☐ MAY/99
☐ APR/88	☐ JAN/90	☐ MAR/93	☐ JUL/96	☐ JUL/99
☐ MAY/88	☐ SEP/90	☐ MAY/93	☐ NOV/96	☐ SEP/99
☐ JUN/88	☐ NOV/90	☐ JUL/93	☐ JAN/97	☐ NOV/99
☐ JUL/88	☐ JAN/91	☐ MAR/94	☐ MAY/97	☐ JAN/00
☐ AUG/88	☐ MAR/91	☐ MAY/94	☐ JUL/97	☐ MAR/00
☐ SEP/88	☐ MAY/91	☐ JUL/94	☐ NOV/97	☐ MAY/00
☐ OCT/88	☐ JUL/91	☐ SEP/94	☐ JAN/98	☐ JUL/00
☐ NOV/88	☐ SEP/91	☐ NOV/94	☐ MAR/98	☐ SEP/00
☐ DEC/88	☐ NOV/91	☐ DEC/94	☐ MAY/98	☐ OCT/00
☐ FEB/89	☐ JAN/92	☐ MAR/95	☐ JUL/98	☐ JAN/01
☐ MAR/89	☐ MAY/92	☐ MAY/95	☐ SEP/98	☐ MAY/01
☐ MAY/89	☐ JUL/92	☐ JUL/95	☐ NOV/98	

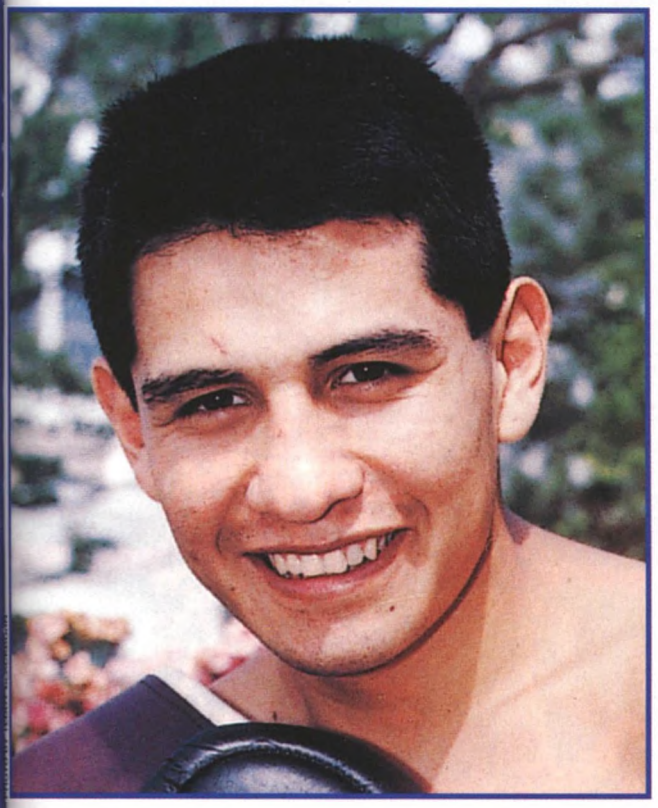
In case of sellout, please list alternate choice:_____

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

5637/04-01/4c

PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO

Marco Antonio Barrera



Birthdate: January 17, 1974

Birthplace: Mexico City, Mexico

Residence: Mexico City, Mexico

Weight Class: Featherweight

Height: 5'7½"

Reach: 70"

Professional Record: 53-3 (38)

World Titles: None

Handlers: Ricardo Maldonado, manager; Rudy Perez, trainer

Background: A former law student from a middle-class family. Racked up a 56-4 amateur record, including five Mexican national championships and two Mexican Golden Gloves titles. Turned pro as a flyweight in November 1989, and won his first 43 fights before being upset by Junior Jones in November '96. In his only shot at a recognized world title, lost a highly controversial decision to then-WBC super bantamweight champion Erik Morales in February '00. Still considering becoming an attorney when he retires from the ring.

Style: Patient, versatile boxer-slugger

Strengths: Determination, bodypunching, workrate, chin, experience

Weaknesses: Defense, difficulty tracking down runners

Best Performance: Handed favored Naseem Hamed his first loss, outboxing and repeatedly rocking the dangerous "Prince" en route to a unanimous decision win in April '01.

Worst Performance: Stunningly upset by Jones in November '96, saved from a kayo defeat only because his corner ran into the ring to save him, resulting in a fifth-round disqualification loss.

Future: Building toward a rematch with Morales early in 2002, then possibly a rematch with Hamed later in the year.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A
Power	A-
Defense	B
Ring Generalship	A
Experience	A+
Quality of Opposition	A-
Chin	A
Stamina	A+
Overall Grade	A-

MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Barrera nearly lops Hamed's head off

1 W 12 Naseem Hamed, April 7, 2001, Las Vegas, Nevada

Billed as a 3-1 underdog against the undefeated, naturally bigger, awesome-punching "Prince," Barrera defied expectations and boxed Hamed's oversized ears off. Most expected that the man from Mexico would try to force Hamed into a war, but after rattling Naz with several whipping lefts to the head in round one, Barrera settled into a beautiful tactical display. He constantly circled clockwise to avoid Hamed's left hand, jabbed his southpaw opponent silly, and paid back every sneaky punch on the break from his frustrated opponent with a shot of his own. In the 12th round, Barrera had a point deducted for slapping a half-nelson on The Prince and running him headfirst into the turnbuckle, but the insult was well worth the penalty, since Barrera had staked himself to a comfortable lead. The scorecards made the fight sound competitive at 116-111 and 115-112 (twice), but Barrera left no doubt who deserved to be called the best featherweight in the world.

2 KO 12 Kennedy McKinney, February 3, 1996, Los Angeles, California

Despite a sparkling 39-0 (27) record, Barrera still had some doubters going into this huge test against former IBF junior feather champ McKinney on the debut of HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. Twelve rounds later, the doubters were gone.

Barrera prevailed in a savage war, giving better than he got,

McKinney crumbles at the end of a classic

but always getting plenty from the determined McKinney. Barrera won most of the early rounds, and just as McKinney was coming on, "The Baby-Faced Assassin" knocked him down twice in the eighth. Barrera forced him to a knee with a vicious onslaught in the ninth, but McKinney somehow came out and hurt the Mexican with a right in the 10th, then scored a knockdown of his own in the 11th. The crowd at the Great Western Forum was in a frenzy at the start of the 12th, when the man they came to see, Barrera, pulled out perhaps the defining round of his career. McKinney went down for the fourth time courtesy of a bodyshot early in the round, and when two rights to the head floored him at the 2:05 mark, the fight was waved off.

3 L 12 Erik Morales, February 19, 2000, Las Vegas

One look at the fighters' faces at the conclusion of this incredible war told you everything you needed to know. Barrera, at first glance, looked like the loser, his face thoroughly bruised and lumped up. One look at Morales, however, made you realize Barrera was no loser. Morales was barely recognizable behind the swellings and welts, still undefeated only because two Vegas judges didn't know what they were looking at.

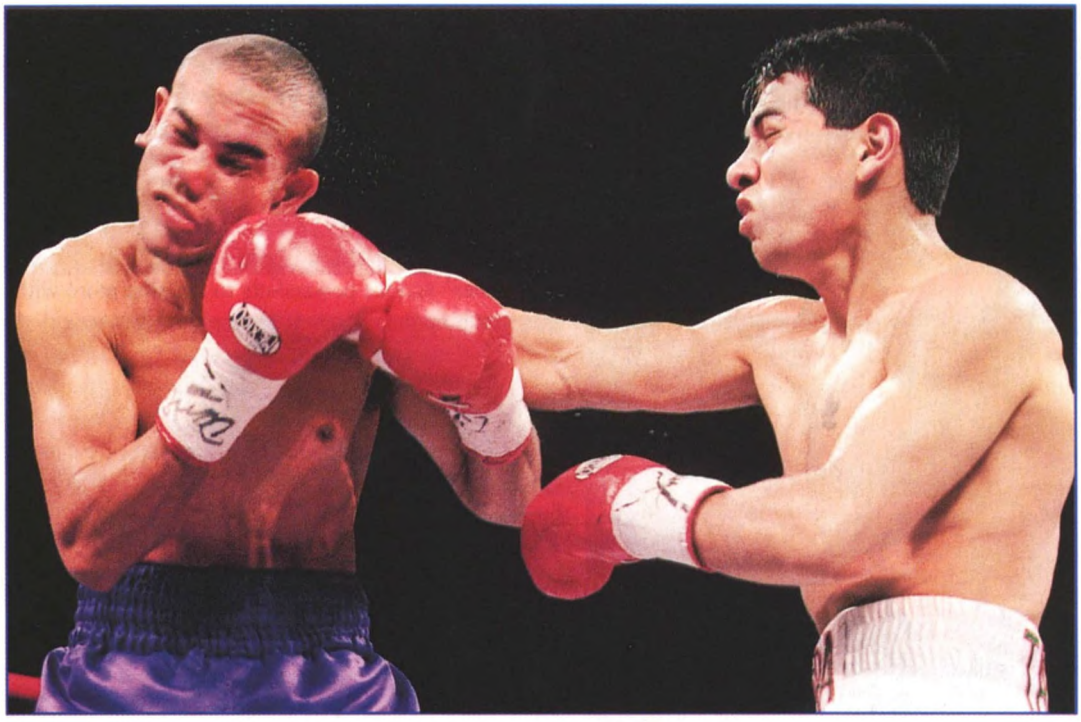
From the opening bell, both Mexicans chose pride over precision, eschewing their fine boxing skills and slugging it out for 12 non-stop rounds. Barrera, the prohibitive underdog in his first real test after his losses to Junior Jones, was just a hair better throughout, shaking off Morales' vicious powershots to land the more withering combinations. A controversial knockdown call in the 12th seemed to secure the upset win for Barrera, but the 115-112 card in his favor was overruled by scores of 114-113 and a ridiculous 115-112 for Morales. Regardless, after a three-year exile from boxing's upper echelon, 2000's Fight of the Year proved that the old Barrera was back.

4 KO 2 Frankie Toledo, June 2, 1995, Ledyard, Connecticut

In a performance that appears even more impressive now in light of Toledo becoming IBF featherweight champion in April 2001, Barrera ravaged "The Shark" and stole the show on an excellent card that also featured fellow Mexican heroes Daniel Zaragoza and Alejandro Gonzalez. Toledo was beaten before the fight even started when he raised the ire of Barrera by making negative remarks about Mexican fighters, and the angry Assassin never allowed the normally slick Toledo to get anything done. Early

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

Barrera fires his trademark hook to Toledo's body



Croft feels the impact of a Barrera right hand

in the second round, a pair of wide left hooks to the liver put Toledo on the mat, and Barrera followed up with more lefts to the body for a second knockdown. Toledo got up again, but immediately regretted it in the face of a swarming Barrera, who fired away recklessly with both hands for 30 seconds until a right to the chin snapped Toledo's head back and prompted the referee's intervention at the 1:55 mark.

5 KO 8 Eddie Cook, December 3, 1994, Las Vegas

Facing his toughest test prior to his first stint as WBO beltholder, Barrera gradually broke down former WBA bantamweight champion Cook and stopped the well-regarded southpaw in eight exciting, toe-to-toe rounds. Though it wasn't televised nationally as part of the Riddick Bowe-Larry Donald undercard, Barrera-Cook did earn Forum Boxing its highest rating ever on the local Los Angeles network affiliate.

Still a month shy of his 21st birthday, Barrera established his superiority early, forcing a standing eight-count in the opening round. More punishment ensued for the gutsy Texan, until finally the fight was halted in the eighth. For Cook, this was the end of the line, and he never fought again. For Barrera, who would win the WBO strap in his next fight, this was just the beginning.

6 KO 7 Eddie Croft, November 4, 1995, Las Vegas

Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield were the headliners in the third bout of their epic series, but the rising Barrera made the veteran heavyweights look like prelim fighters by comparison with his eye-opening destruction of the credible Croft. Just six months earlier, Croft had gone the distance with featherweight titlist Tom Johnson, but Barrera proved he had more "Boom Boom" than Johnson by hammering the Californian's eye shut and prompting a merciful stoppage 38 seconds into round seven.

Over the first three rounds, Barrera boxed from a distance, controlling the action with his jab and his straight right hand. Over the next three, the versatile Mexican let Croft get in close and ripped him with right uppercuts and brutal combinations to the head and body. By the time this one was over, the pound-for-pound buzz was beginning to surround Barrera—and the "next Chavez" buzz wasn't far behind.

7 W 12 Agapito Sanchez, August 22, 1995, South Padre Island, Texas

Against the clever and gutsy Sanchez, who would go on to establish himself as one of the division's most consistent and inexhaustible contenders, Barrera showed the resiliency that would become a trademark in his classic bouts with McKinney and Morales. During the wild 12th round, Barrera was knocked down for the first time in his career, courtesy of a short left hook, but bounced right up, nearly knocked Sanchez through the ropes, and dominated the Dominican so thoroughly that two of the judges scored it 10-8 Barrera despite the flash knockdown. Barrera also showed patience and poise, standing by his excellent jab as he worked through Sanchez' awkward, sometime negative style. With Sanchez losing points in both the first and eighth rounds for low blows, Barrera triumphed via scores of 118-107, 119-106, and 118-109.

8 KO 6 Jesus Salud, December 1, 2000, Las Vegas

Though former WBA 122-pound titlist Salud was well past his prime at 37, this was still an impressive—and important—victory for Barrera. He gave the Hawaiian veteran a one-sided battering unlike any he had received before, and did so behind the jab that, four months later, would spell doom for Prince Hamed. Salud's face began to redden from the stick as early as round two, and by the fifth, his eyes were nearly swollen shut. A vicious right to the body hurt Salud in the sixth, and by the end of the round,

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Barrera has veteran Salud hurting

he was hardly punching back. Thankfully, Salud's corner stopped the fight between rounds, meaning Barrera had cleared the final hurdle on his road to Hamed. And he'd cleared it with an ease that scared HBO analyst Emanuel Steward, Hamed's co-trainer, into admitting on the air that Naz would have his royal hands full with Barrera.

9 L 12 Junior Jones, April 18, 1997, Las Vegas

Barrera's ability to adjust and re-adjust came to the fore as he lost a controversial decision in a rematch with the man who stunningly blew him out in his previous fight. Upended in the fifth round by 8-1 underdog Jones the preceding November, Barrera had to prove he wasn't all hype, but took an unusual approach: boxing and counterpunching, rather than slugging for revenge.

The strategy ultimately backfired due to Barrera being outhustled in the middle rounds by Jones, but the Mexican came alive in the last two rounds, repeatedly forcing his conqueror to clinch with vicious bodywork. Many observers scored for Barrera, but he came out on the wrong end of a unanimous decision in the first of his disappointing run-ins with Vegas judges, losing by scores of 116-111, 114-112, and 114-113. The performance didn't put him back where he was before the first Jones fight, but it proved he was still one of the best junior feathers out there.

10 KO 1 Maui Diaz, July 15, 1995, Inglewood, California

Fighting just six weeks after his wipeout of Toledo, Barrera was every bit as devastating against the respected Diaz on the Saman Sorjaturong-Chiquita Gonzalez undercard. Diaz sported a 27-1 (15) record coming in, but Barrera overwhelmed him with an incredible display of bodypunching prowess. With less than 40 seconds to go in the opening round, Barrera landed a left hook to the midsection that caused the Californian to wince badly and turn away, but Barrera followed him, whacked away to the body, and put Diaz down for the first time in his career with a right to the head. When Diaz got up, Barrera charged in, and Diaz flinched, fell, and pulled a "no mas," his face still suggesting a world of pain. Though Diaz was not Barrera's best opponent, he certainly wasn't as hopeless as The Baby-Faced Assassin made him look on this night.

Barrera shows off his defensive moves in the rematch with Jones

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA

Barrera cooks up an uppercut for Eddie Cook

1989		
Nov. 22	David Felix, Mexico City	KO 2
Dec. 16	Federico Lara, Mexico City	KO 3

1990		
May 18	Ignacio Jacome, Salamanca, Mexico	W 4
June 9	Oscar Granados, Mexico City	W 4
Aug. 4	Federico Lara, Mexico City	KO 3
Sept. 14	Sebastian Amica, Acapulco, Mexico	KO 5
Oct. 6	Pedro Martinez, Mexico City	KO 2
Oct. 13	Jose Yanez, Mexico City	KO 2
Dec. 8	Ivan Salazar, Mexico City	W 8

1991		
Feb. 9	Esteban Rodriguez, Mexico City	KO 4
March 9	Abel Hinojosa, Mexico City	KO 5
April 13	Juan Lopez, Mexico City	KO 1
June 29	Jaime Rojas, Mexico City	KO 6
Aug. 31	Antonio Aguilar, Mexico City	KO 1
Nov. 2	Javier Diaz, Mexico City	W Disq. 7
Dec. 7	Miguel Pina, Mexico City	KO 1

PHOTO BY BRENT COOK

Jesse Magana tries to exchange with Barrera

Erik Morales and Barrera let the bombs go

1992

April 1	Josefino Suarez, Mexico City	W 12
June 13	Jose Montiel, Mexico City	KO 2
July 11	Miguel Espinoza, Mexico City	KO 6
Oct. 2	Abner Barajas, Guadalajara, Mexico	W 10
Nov. 9	Esteban Ayala, Inglewood, CA	KO 4
Dec. 5	Angel Rosario, Mexico City	KO 6

1993

March 1	Ivan Salazar, Inglewood	W 10
April 10	Facundo Rodriguez, Guadalajara	KO 4
May 22	Noe Santillana, Naucalpan, Mexico	W 12
July 12	Elidio Dominguez, Inglewood	KO 1
Aug. 28	Eduardo Ramirez, Inglewood	W 12
Nov. 27	Alex Sanabria, Mexico City	KO 1

1994

March 1	Justo Zuniga, Inglewood	KO 3
April 13	Carlos Salazar, Buenos Aires, Argentina	W 10
June 24	Miguel Espinoza, Inglewood	KO 6
Aug. 15	Israel Gonzalez, Inglewood	KO 8
Oct. 22	Jesus Sarabia, Las Vegas	KO 3
Dec. 3	Eddie Cook, Las Vegas	KO 8

1995

March 31	Daniel Jimenez, Anaheim, CA	W 12
June 2	Frankie Toledo, Ledyard, CT	KO 2
July 15	Mauricio Diaz, Inglewood	KO 1
Aug. 22	Agapito Sanchez, South Padre Island, TX	W 12
Nov. 4	Eddie Croft, Las Vegas	KO 7

1996

Feb. 3	Kennedy McKinney, Los Angeles	KO 12
May 4	Jesse Benavides, Anaheim, CA	KO 3
July 14	Orlando Fernandez, Denver, CO	KO 7
Sept. 14	Jesse Magana, Los Angeles, CA	KO 10
Nov. 22	Junior Jones, Tampa, FL	L Disq. 5

1997

April 18	Junior Jones, Las Vegas	L 12

1998

Feb. 21	Angel Rosario, Las Vegas	KO 5
May 16	Geronimo Cardoz, Las Vegas	KO 1
Sept. 26	Pedro Torres, Lake Tahoe, NV	KO 4
Oct. 31	Richie Wenton, Atlantic City	KO 3

1999

April 3	Paul Lloyd, London	KO 1
Aug. 7	Pastor Maurin, Atlantic City	W 12
Dec. 18	Cesar Najera, Indio, CA	Exh. 4

2000

Feb. 19	Erik Morales, Las Vegas *(For WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	L 12
June 17	Luiz Freitas, Mexico City	KO 1
Sept. 9	Jose Luis Valbuena, New Orleans	W 12
Dec. 1	Jesus Salud, Las Vegas	KO 6

2001

April 7	Naseem Hamed, Las Vegas	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
56	53	3	0	38

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

Barrera scores with a jab against Jose Luis Valbuena

MEMORABLE QUOTES

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Beat-up Barrera knew he beat up Morales even worse

"I always liked the way Salvador Sanchez fought. His aggressiveness. All the things he did in a fight, how he boxed and handled himself. I'd like to be as good as he was—make my best effort, and make the Mexican people proud of me."

—1993, Barrera responding to a question about what fighter he idolized

"My brother liked to fight on the streets, and he used to say to me, 'Fight that kid.' And I would cry because I didn't want to. I didn't like to fight on the streets because I was nervous and there were no rules. I was more confident in my boxing ability than my streetfighting ability."

—1995, Barrera recalling his youth

"A fighter should talk with his fists, not with his mouth."

—1995, Barrera on Frankie Toledo's prefight trash-talking

"You can be a lawyer your whole life. You can only be a world boxing champion a few years."

—1996, Barrera explaining his decision to put his law career on hold

"I see things in this kid I didn't see in Roberto Duran at that age."

—1996, boxing historian Hank Kaplan assessing Barrera's ability in the wake of his win over Kennedy McKinney

"I missed boxing while I was away. I feel more hungry than ever to win a championship and fight some of the best fighters in my division. I have not been this serious about my career for a long time."

—1998, Barrera on his return to the ring after a 10-month hiatus following the Jones losses

"If I had Don King as my promoter, I probably would have won."

—2000, Barrera on the decision in the Erik Morales fight

"Three hundred people who turned up at two in the morning when I returned to Mexico know who won the fight, and so does everybody who saw it. I was sure in my heart of hearts that I would get the decision. There is nothing else to say."

—2000, Barrera, a few weeks after the Morales fight

"I stopped throwing punches in the fifth and 10th because my stomach was cramping up slightly. I ate a chocolate dessert after my meal before the fight and I think it affected me a little. But I still won."

—2000, Barrera, a few weeks after the Morales fight

"I beat him at his own game."

—2001, Barrera at the press conference following his win over Naseem Hamed ■

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Barrera and the man he would "beat at his own game"

THE KNOCKOUT MAGAZINE

In Knockout Color ... At Knockout Savings!

Subscribe Today And Save $5

Subscribe to *KO* for six issues and pocket a cool savings of nearly five bucks, plus you'll enjoy the convenience of getting *KO* delivered to your door. It couldn't be easier.

KO has entertained and informed fight fans for a generation with its trademark of excellence—the most informed feature writers, controversial columnists, and accomplished photographers. Now *KO* offers this package in an all-color, glossy format!

KO The Boxing Fans' Magazine

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021
Marion, OH 43306-8121

SAVE ALMOST $5.00!

☐ YES! I would like to receive 6 issues of *KO* for $19.00!

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. ____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Price applies in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $23.80 ($34.00 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

5383/09-00/4-c

PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Bernard Hopkins

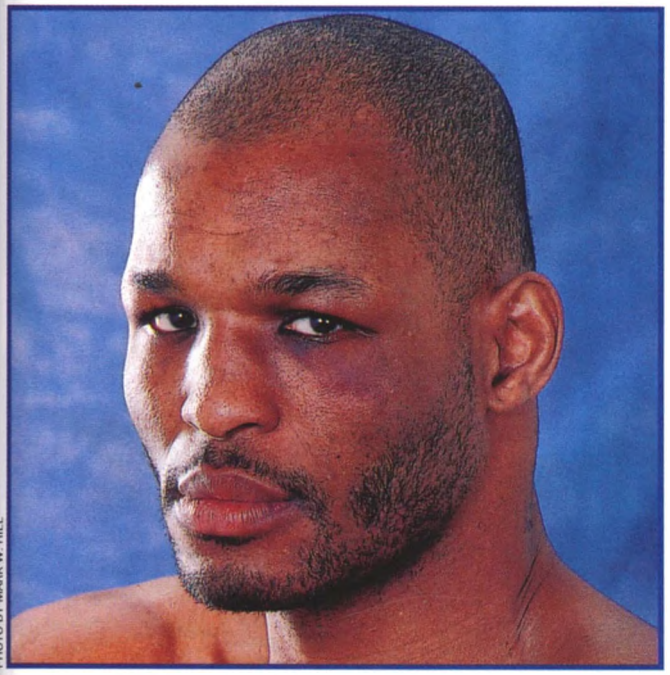


PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Birthdate: January 15, 1965

Birthplace: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Residence: Newark, Delaware

Weight Class: Middleweight

Height: 6'1"

Reach: 73"

Professional Record: 40-2-1 (29) with 1 no-contest

World Titles: IBF middleweight (April 29, 1995-present), WBC middleweight (April 14, 2001-present), WBA middleweight (September 29, 2001-present)

Handlers: Bouie Fisher, trainer; Lou DiBella, adviser

Background: Former street thug turned his life around while serving time for strong-arm robbery, and has led unblemished life since being released from prison. Lost his pro debut in October 1988 fighting as a light heavy, then won 22 straight at 160 pounds. Lost decision to Roy Jones in bid to win vacant IBF middleweight title in May '93. Finally won IBF belt in April '95, added WBC belt in April '01, and unified championship in September '01 by capturing WBA crown.

Style: Cagey boxer-puncher who can fight equally as well at long range as on the inside

Strengths: Experience, toughness, work ethic, desire to excel, never-say-die attitude

Weaknesses: Foot speed, age, wear and tear of lengthy career

Best Performance: Shocked the world by stopping 3-1 favorite Felix Trinidad in the 12th round to unify the middleweight title for the first time in 14 years.

Worst Performance: Was looking jaded against Robert Allen in August '98, when a freak fall from the ring resulted in a no-contest.

Future: Wants Oscar De La Hoya next, but will probably have to settle for someone else. Perhaps old nemesis Roy Jones, hometown rival David Reid, or a rematch with Trinidad. Could set new division record for successful defenses in next fight. Currently tied with Carlos Monzon at 14.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A
Power	B+
Defense	B+
Ring Generalship	A
Experience	A
Quality of Opposition	A
Chin	A
Stamina	A
Overall Grade	A

BERNARD HOPKINS' 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

1

KO 12 Felix Trinidad, September 29, 2001
New York, New York

In a performance as superb as it was surprising, Hopkins handed Trinidad the first loss of his professional career, unified the middleweight title for the first time since 1987, and established himself among the greatest middleweights of all-time. Officially, the end came at the 1:18 mark of the 12th and final round, but by then "The Executioner" had already thoroughly demonstrated his superiority, and the TKO termination served only to put an exclamation point on a magnificent display of the Sweet Science.

Hopkins began his campaign long before the opening bell sounded, waging unrelenting psychological warfare during the prefight buildup, twice throwing the Puerto Rican flag to the ground and boldly predicting that it would be one of the easiest fights of his career. How large of a role his attempt to ruffle Trinidad's composure ultimately paid is difficult to determine, but there's no doubt that Hopkins' underrated boxing skills, steely focus, and inexorable faith in himself were way too much for the 28-year-old WBA champion to handle.

Although Hopkins had threatened to turn the fight into a back-alley brawl, he shocked "Tito" and the pro-Trinidad crowd of more than 19,000 at Madison Square Garden by boxing. Whenever the WBA titlist planted his feet to punch, Hopkins moved out of range, and generally popped his foe with a jab for good measure. Late in the second round, he rocked Trinidad with a counter right, a punch the Philadelphian continued to land virtually at will the rest of the fight.

While Trinidad's punching power was always a threat, Hopkins didn't lose a round on the official scorecards after the sixth. In the 10th, he stood toe-to-toe with Tito, got the better of several sizzling exchanges, and had the pride of Cupey Alto out on his feet at the bell.

Pride kept Trinidad on his feet in the 11th, but when Hopkins connected with a powerful right to the jaw in the 12th, he crashed to the canvas, badly stunned. Trinidad struggled to his feet just inside of referee Steve Smoger's 10 count, but when Trinidad's father entered the ring, Smoger stopped the fight and awarded Hopkins a career-defining victory.

Hopkins was at his ferocious best against Lipsey

2 KO 4 Joe Lipsey, March 16, 1996, Las Vegas, Nevada

Had things worked out a little differently, this could have been the fight that began Hopkins' march to superstardom. Everything was in place for "The Executioner" to showcase his talents to as wide an audience as possible. A huge contingent of media had gathered in Las Vegas that weekend to watch Mike Tyson regain the WBC heavyweight title from Frank Bruno, and the Hopkins-Lipsey fight was broadcast earlier the same day on ABC's *Wide World Of Sports*. An auspicious performance from Hopkins was sure to garner the IBF champion plenty of positive publicity.

Lipsey, who came in with a glossy 25-0 (20) record, was considered a quality challenger, and fought reasonably well the first two rounds. He advanced confidently behind his southpaw jab and succeeded in raising a small bump over the champ's right eye. But when Hopkins shifted into top gear in the third, the gap in talent quickly became apparent.

Hopkins' thudding hooks to the body and stinging right to the head began to connect on a regular basis. Then, late in the fourth, Hopkins stopped Lipsey dead in his tracks with a fierce right-left to the head. A nanosecond later, Hopkins ripped home a right uppercut that sent Lipsey's mouthpiece flying. For what seemed like an eternity, Lipsey's body seemed frozen, his arms hanging limply at his sides. When referee Mitch Halpern failed to take action, Hopkins smashed home several more free shots before Lipsey crashed down, flat on his back. The challenger was so clearly out, Halpern immediately stopped the fight without benefit of a count.

Unfortunately for Hopkins, his career didn't take off the way it should have following such a high profile and spectacular victory. He soon began feuding with Butch Lewis, who promoted him at the time, and fought only twice over the next 12 months. The momentum he'd gained was soon lost, and it took Hopkins another five years to reach the status he enjoys today.

3 KO 10 Antwun Echols, December 1, 2000, Las Vegas

This was Hopkins' ticket to the big time, a chance to finally be involved in the kind of superfights he'd been craving most of his career. But first he had to beat the murderous-punching Echols again, and judging by their first encounter, it was going to be a tough job. Echols had lasted the distance the first time, albeit in a losing cause, and had given the champion a highly competitive fight before dropping a unanimous decision. He even managed to knock down Hopkins, but as the punch came after the bell, it didn't count as an official knockdown.

The rematch quickly developed into a foul-filled brawl. Echols got the fun started in the first round by hitting on the break, and when Hopkins replied in kind, you just knew matters were going to get worse. In between the dirty stuff—everything from low blows to rabbit punches—Hopkins controlled the fight, boxing smartly and frequently nailing Echols with clean rights.

By the sixth round, the challenger was desperate, and he picked up Hopkins and bodyslammed him to the floor, dislocating the champion's right shoulder. Referee Tony Weeks penalized Echols two points for the flagrant infraction, and Hopkins could have easily prevailed via disqualification, but he insisted on fighting on, bum shoulder and all, and the ref allowed him to do so.

Echols was severely punished for his brash behavior. A pair of left hooks floored him in the seventh, and even though Hopkins

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Hopkins overpowers Echols in their second fight

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

The ref rescues Allen in the rematch

was docked a point in the eighth for holding behind the head, he was absolutely maniacal in his pursuit of a knockout. It came in the 10th round, when a prolonged barrage of heavy blows prompted Weeks to save the defenseless challenger at the 1:42 mark.

4 KO 7 Segundo Mercado, April 29, 1995, Landover, Maryland

It took Hopkins three tries to win the IBF middleweight belt. The first time, he lost a decision to Roy Jones. The second, he was held to a draw by Mercado in his opponent's hometown of Quito, Ecuador, which meant that the IBF 160-pound title remained vacant (Jones had relinquished and moved up to super middle). Hopkins and Mercado were, therefore, matched again.

Mercado had salvaged a stalemate in the first fight by scoring two knockdowns over the normally sturdy-chinned Hopkins, but the rematch turned out to be utterly one-sided. Although he stayed on his feet, Mercado absorbed a ruthless beating over the first six rounds, and when the pounding intensified in the seventh, referee Rudy Battle terminated the bout at the 1:10 mark to save the badly battered Ecuadorian further punishment.

When it was all over, a joyous Hopkins kissed the belt that he would go on to successfully defend 13 times, as of this writing.

5 W 12 Keith Holmes, April 14, 2001, New York

No sooner had he strapped on the IBF belt, than Hopkins, eager to unify, began challenging the other alphabet champions. For years, he was a voice crying out in the wilderness, as the other titlists were content to play it safe by taking on lesser opponents. But when Don King and HBO dug deep into their coffers to sponsor the middleweight unification tournament, the other champs could no longer afford to duck the uncompromising Executioner.

Some thought WBC champ Keith Holmes, a lanky southpaw, would be too quick and too slick for Hopkins. But they were wrong. While Hopkins came to win, it appeared that Holmes came to survive, and the result was a one-sided, unanimous decision in Hopkins' favor by scores of 119-108, 118-109, and 117-110.

It wasn't the most scintillating performance of Hopkins' career, but he'd come through in a pressure situation against a reluctant, clinch-happy adversary, and most importantly, earned a multimillion-dollar fight with Tito Trinidad and an opportunity to become the first unified middleweight champion since Ray Leonard.

6 KO 7 Robert Allen, February 6, 1999, Washington, D.C.

This was a grudge match that was created when Hopkins' first bout with Allen ended in a no-contest. That was the freaky fight in which Hopkins tumbled from the ring and injured his ankle after referee Mills Lane used a little too much muscle trying to break a clinch and accidentally propelled the defending champ through the ropes.

Following the abbreviated bout, Allen accused Hopkins of exaggerating the extent of his injury in order to get out of what was shaping up to be a rugged fight. Trash talk flew back and forth, and the rematch generated quite a bit of interest. But those who thought that Hopkins was ready to be taken were in for a surprise. The Executioner decked Allen with a counter right in the

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

The student gives the teacher a lesson

Both Hopkins and Jones thought they'd won

second, wobbled him with another right in the fifth, then dropped him again in the sixth with a volley along the ropes.

The best Allen could do was try to steal the fight on a foul, and on several occasions he fell down and rolled around on the canvas after fielding alleged low blows. But referee Rudy Battle wasn't buying his act, and following another fusillade of punches from Hopkins in the seventh, called a halt at the 1:18 mark.

7 KO 7 John David Jackson, April 19, 1997, Shreveport, Louisiana

Hopkins always gave former WBA middleweight titlist Jackson credit for teaching him how to fight southpaws. That had been back in the days when they sparred together at Philly's Champs Gym. But after Hopkins got finished with him in their title fight, Jackson surely wished he'd never given his old gym mate any tips, because when it really counted, Hopkins had no trouble whatsoever pounding the stuffings out of the crafty lefthander.

Hopkins began landing heavy rights in the third, and kept it up until he floored his backpedaling challenger in the sixth. Jackson was in survival mode and sucking up more punishment when referee Johnny Femia rescued him 2:22 into the seventh.

"He was the teacher," said Hopkins afterward, "but there comes a time when the pupil must graduate, and today was that day."

8 W 12 Antwun Echols, December 12, 1999, Miami, Florida

Long considered more of a slugger than a boxer, Hopkins displayed his underrated technical skills in his first fight with Echols. He picked the perfect opponent, as Echols is a pure puncher who charges straight at opponents, winging bombs with both hands.

Although Hopkins dominated most of the bout and left Echols' face a mass of welts, the challenger also fought well and gained respect with his strong showing. There were brisk exchanges throughout, and even in the final round, when all Hopkins had to do to win was stay upright until the final bell, he eagerly engaged Echols in a brutal exchange that lasted until the final bell. In fact, the fight was so fan-friendly, they did it again the next year.

9 L 12 Roy Jones, May 22, 1993, Washington, D.C.

Some fights grow in significance with the passing of time, which is certainly the case with the Jones-Hopkins bout for the vacant IBF middleweight title. In the immediate aftermath of Jones' decision victory, both fighters were criticized for their uninspired performances. Today, we look at it from a different point of view. While nobody, not even Hopkins, questioned the verdict, the fact that The Executioner was more competitive than the vast majority of Jones' subsequent opponents (he lost by unanimous scores of 116-112) has helped enhance the Philadelphian's prestige.

10 KO 1 Steve Frank, January 27, 1996, Phoenix, Arizona

Twenty-four seconds! That's all it took for Hopkins to dispose of Frank and tie the record for the quickest knockout in middleweight championship history.

As soon as the opening bell rang, Hopkins dashed across the ring, landed a right, fired two jabs, and then a final right. The last punch sent the badly stunned challenger tumbling to the floor. Somehow, Frank staggered up inside of the count, but after a good look into Frank's eyes, referee Bobby Ferrara ruled that he was unfit to continue.

PHOTO BY PHILLIP SOTO

Frank is finished in just 24 seconds

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF BERNARD HOPKINS

PHOTO BY AL BELLO

Willie Kemp was the first to go 10 rounds with Hopkins

1988

Oct. 11	Clinton Mitchell, Atlantic City	L 4

1990

Feb. 22	Greg Paige, Philadelphia	W 4
April 26	Keith Gray, Philadelphia	KO 1
May 18	Ed Tyler, Atlantic City	KO 1
May 31	Jouvin Mercado, Rochester, NY	KO 2
June 30	Khalif Shabazz, Atlantic City	KO 1
Aug. 5	Percy Harris, Atlantic City	W 6
Oct. 20	Darrin Oliver, Atlantic City	KO 1
Nov. 17	Mike Sapp, Fort Myers, FL	KO 1

1991

Feb. 26	Richard Quiles, Philadelphia	KO 1
March 18	Steve Langley, Las Vegas	KO 3
June 20	Pedro Marquez, Parsippany, NJ	KO 1
July 9	Danny Mitchell, Philadelphia	KO 1
Sept. 23	Ralph Moncrief, Philadelphia	KO 1
Nov. 26	David McCluskey, Philadelphia	KO 5
Dec. 13	Willie Kemp, Atlantic City	W 10

1992

Jan. 31	Dennis Milton, Philadelphia	KO 4
April 3	Randy Smith, Atlantic City	W 10
May 21	Anibal Miranda, Paris	W 10
Aug. 28	James Stokes, Atlantic City	KO 1
Sept. 14	Eric Rhinehart, Philadelphia	KO 1
Dec. 4	Wayne Powell, Atlantic City	KO 1

1993

Feb. 16	Gilbert Baptist, Denver	W 12
May 22	Roy Jones, Washington, D.C. *(For Vacant IBF Middleweight Title)*	L 12
Aug. 3	Roy Ritchie, Las Vegas	KO 7
Nov. 23	Wendall Hall, Philadelphia	KO 3

1994

Feb. 26	Melvin Wynn, Atlantic City	KO 3
May 17	Lupe Aquino, Atlantic City	W 12
Dec. 17	Segundo Mercado, Quito, Ecuador *(For Vacant IBF Middleweight Title)*	D 12

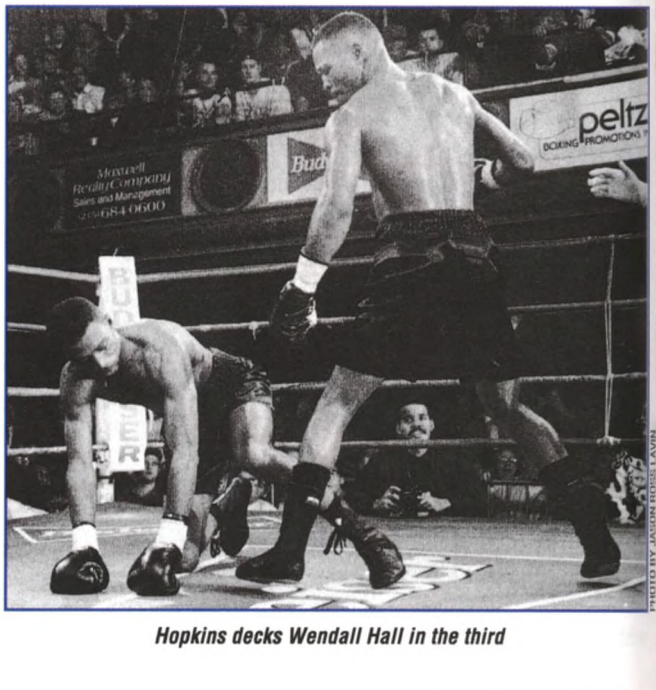


PHOTO BY JASON ROSS LAVIN

Hopkins decks Wendall Hall in the third

PHOTO BY WILL HART/SHOWTIME

Hopkins attacks Segundo Mercado en route to winning the title

1995

April 29	Segundo Mercado, Landover, MD *(Wins Vacant IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 7

1996

Jan. 27	Steve Frank, Phoenix *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 1
March 16	Joe Lipsey, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 4
July 16	Bo James, Atlantic City *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 11

1997

April 19	John David Jackson, Shreveport, LA *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 7
July 20	Glen Johnson, Indio, CA *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 11

PHOTO BY JASON ROSS LAVIN

Bo James feels the effect of Hopkins' right

Nov. 18	Andrew Council, Upper Marlboro, MD *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	W 12

1998

Jan. 31	Simon Brown, Atlantic City *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 6
Aug. 28	Robert Allen, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	No-Contest 4

1999

Feb. 6	Robert Allen, Washington, D.C. *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 7
Dec. 12	Antwun Echols, Miami, FL *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	W 12

2000

May 13	Syd Vanderpool, Indianapolis *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	W 12
Dec. 1	Antwun Echols, Las Vegas *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title)*	KO 10

2001

April 14	Keith Holmes, New York City *(Retains IBF Middleweight Title; Wins WBC Middleweight Title)*	W 12
Sept. 29	Felix Trinidad, New York City *(Unifies Middleweight Title)*	KO 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO	NO-CONTEST
44	40	2	1	29	1

MEMORABLE QUOTES

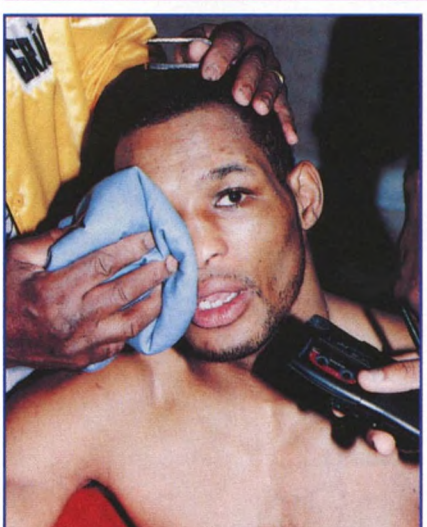


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Not even a tough fight can keep Hopkins quiet

There's a quote machine behind that mask

"Sometimes you just have to take a chance. I should have said, 'Okay, Roy, I took your best shot and I'm still here. Now I'm going to beat you down and break your will.' I didn't do that. I gave him too much respect."

—1993, Hopkins looking back at his bout with Jones

"People are starting to get a whiff of what Jones is all about, and it smells kind of rotten."

—1994, Hopkins regarding Jones' reluctance to give him a rematch

"It's a reality check to remind me where I came from and how big those odds were that I overcame."

—1995, Hopkins on visiting Graterford Prison, where he had been incarcerated

"Look, I'm not saying I'm better than Bennie Briscoe or Boogaloo Watts or Georgie Benton. Those guys are legends. I owe them a debt I can never repay because they created the tradition I've always tried to live up to."

—1995, Hopkins on becoming the first Philadelphia fighter to win the middleweight title

"Butch Lewis is the most arrogant guy that I've ever dealt with in my life."

—1996, Hopkins on his estranged promoter

"Free at last."

—1997, Hopkins reacting to a court ruling that terminated his contract with Lewis

"I had what I call a Kool-Aid smile. I was cheesing from ear to ear. I had such a good time, I was ready to knock Mickey out."

—1998, Hopkins on his first trip to Disney World

"Fighters have no chance against promoters. It's like a welterweight fighting Mike Tyson."

—1999, Hopkins testifying at a hearing conducted by the National Association of Attorneys General Boxing Task Force

"I'm not a Mr. Bojangles guy. I don't dance and smile in everybody's face."

—1999, Hopkins explaining his intense personality

"I'm a tough guy, but I never saw anything like that. I've got more respect for women now than ever before."

—1999, Hopkins after watching his wife, Jeannette, give birth to their daughter, Latree

"Fighters are being exploited every day, ripped off, out-and-out robbed. The promoters and managers and all them, they can pretty much get away with what they want."

—1999, Hopkins on the financial abuse of fighters

"If I was an Italian in South Philly, there'd be a lot more support and respect from the media and boxing world, because becoming a champion is not done every day by a Caucasian."

—2000, Hopkins on racism in boxing ■

"The Executioner" and Sugar Ray

WORLD BOXING BACK ISSUES

For more than 25 years WORLD BOXING has earned respect for its ability to cover the big fights and speculate on the future of the sport and its stars. Back issues of WORLD BOXING are available in limited quantity. Don't delay—order today!

...b. 1991: For The Best Of Two Div...ons, All Roads Lead To Chavez. ...s: Paez-Lopez, Glenwood Brown, ...onard-Norris preview, Jack Johnson.
...ril 1991: Boxing's Bible Belter: ...e Inner Strength Of Evander ...olyfield. Plus: Michael Carbajal, The ...pez-Mitchell showdown, 1990 in re...ew, Jack Dempsey, Are boxers over...ed?
...ne 1991: Evander Holyfield's ...sk: How To Get Rid Of 260 ...ounds Of Flab In Five Minutes. ...s: Experts choose boxing's best, ...ldrick Taylor, Hearns-Hill preview, ...x Schmeling.
...g. 1991: Tyson The Terrible: ...ighty Mike Is Boxing's Baddest ...an Again. Plus: Roberto Duran, ...dell Holmes, Julio Cesar Chavez, ...mo Carnera, Muhammad Ali.
...ct. 1991: 12 Angry Men—The ...eanest Fighters In Boxing. Plus: ...ddock, Mercer-Morrison, Orlando ...nizales, Meanest Fighters Ever, ...ar That Was: 1967.
...c. 1991: Will A Few More Of These ...nish Off Mike Tyson? Plus: Ezzard ...harles, Foreman, Holyfield-Tyson, ...yd Patterson, John David Jackson.
...b. 1992: Can Boxing Survive ...thout Mike Tyson? Plus: Julian ...ckson, Mitchell-Lopez, Marciano, ...e Year That Was: 1972.
...ril 1992: Evander Holyfield: With ...ery Win, He Loses Respect. Plus: ...emar Johansson, Rock Newman, ...ar-end review and look ahead, ...mpsey-Firpo.
...ne 1992: Boxing's Thrill-A-Minute ...ampion: How Much Time Is Left ...r Meldrick Taylor? Plus: Muham...d Ali, Holyfield-Bowe, Iran Barkley, ...die Banks, Jemal Hinton.
...g. 1992: Holmes Challenges ...olyfield: The Old Man Has A ...ance If ... Plus: Iran Barkley, Eddie ...ok, The Year That Was: 1952, ...orge Foreman.
...ct. 1992: Michael Moorer Ex...odes! The Heavyweight With A ...ort Fuse. Plus: Bobby Czyz, ...ris-Taylor, Riddick Bowe, The Year ...t Was: 1961.
...c. 1992: Mike Tyson: He Could ...t Out. Plus: Tony Tucker, Eddie ...son, Ruddock-Lewis preview.
...b. 1993: Chavez Tortures Cam...o: Can He Become Greater ...an Sugar Ray Robinson? Plus: ...chael Nunn, Tim Littles, trainers, ...eman-Morrison preview.
...ril 1993: Riddick Bowe & Lennox ...wis Lead The Heavyweight ...surgence. Plus: Bowe-Holyfield ...nd 10, Jemal Hinton, Dave Tiberi.
...ne 1993: The Old Man And The ...e: At $5-Million Per, George Fore...an Will Never Retire. Plus: Mor...n-Williams, Genaro Hernandez, ...y Norris.
...g. 1993: Bowe, No! Can Jesse ...rguson Be 1993's Buster ...uglas? Plus: Carbajal, Azumah, ...rding-McCallum, Eric Griffin, the ...t great heavyweight.
...c. 1993: Riddick Bowe's Year In ...view: Lennox Lewis Is The Least ...His Problems. Plus: Michael Carbajal, Ali-Foreman, Ricardo Lopez, Larry Hazzard.
Feb. 1994: Chavez-Whitaker: Was The Fix In? Plus: Chiquita Gonzalez, overrated/underrated, Corbett-Choynski.
April 1994: Hungry At The Wrong Time: Has Riddick Bowe Become The New Buster Douglas? Plus: Michael Bentt, Buddy McGirt, Jorge Luis Gonzalez, George Dixon, Joe Gans, Joe Walcott.
Aug. 1994: Beating Bredahl Was No Oscar-Winning Peformance: Why De La Hoya Still Has A Lot To Prove. Plus: Christy Martin, overrated/underrated, Little-Nunn, Foreman-Holmes preview, Young Jack Thompson.
Oct. 1994: Michael Moorer's Image: Is It All Shadow & Light? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Egerton Marcus, John Michael Johnson, Gorilla Jones, Bowe-Donald preview.
Dec. 1994: Paz Survives Duran: "Pain Is Temporary, Pride Is Forever." Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tony Green, Patterson-Kelley preview, George Godfrey.
Jan. 1995: Who Are Boxing's Real Warriors? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Marty Jakubowski, super middleweights, Bob Armstrong.
Feb. 1995 (84-Page Special): The Experts Debate: Pernell Whitaker—The Greatest Fighter Of His Era ... Or The Most Overrated? Plus: Greatest fighters who never won title, boxing's bad boys, pro debuts, Bruce Flowers.
April 1995: George Foreman (1974) vs. George Foreman (1995). Plus: Riddick Bowe, cheap-shot artists, catchweight fights, Young Peter Jackson.
June 1995: Foreman, Chavez, De La Hoya, & Jones—Hollywood Boxing Movies You'll Never See. Plus: Rocky Balboa, fighters we want out, Sosa-Williams.
Aug. 1995: Why Mike Tyson Won't Regain The Title. Plus: Alonzo Highsmith, overrated/underrated, Triple-Crown Showdown.
Oct. 1995 (All-Heavyweight Issue): More Hittable Than Lovable—Can Big George Survive Another Axel Breakdown? Plus: Mike Tyson, Larry Holmes, Bruce Seldon, Joe Louis.
Dec. 1995: Lewis vs. Morrison, Bowe vs. Holyfield: Who Will Survive To Fight Tyson? Plus: James Thunder, Sammy Fuentes, tattoos.
Feb. 1996: Roy Jones vs. Pernell Whitaker: WORLD BOXING Picks The Pound-For-Pound Best. Plus: Frankie Randall, Butterbean, two-sport boxers.
April 1996: The 10 Best Fights Of 1996. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Quartey & Trinidad, fantasy boxing.
June 1996: Hey, Roy Jones, You Say You're Bored? Take These Six Steps To Tyson. Plus: Guys never in a bad fight, Lenzie Morgan, Cleveland Williams.
Fall 1996: "The Hardest Punch I Ever Landed": 10 Heavyweights Recall The Destruction. Plus: Frazier-Ali I fight poster (color), James Toney, heavyweight report card, Wilfredo Vazquez, Rocky.
Winter 1996: Myth vs. Reality. In Search Of The True Tyson (color). Plus: Lonnie Bradley, George Foreman & HBO, Bowe-Golota II preview.
Spring 1997: Is Andrew Golota Too Dangerous For Boxing? Plus: Bowe-Golota II (color), Michael Moorer, top heavyweight fights of '96, fantasy boxing, short fighters.
Summer 1997: Building The Perfect Heavyweight ... One Piece At A Time (color). Plus: Nielsen-Holmes, Heavyweight Explosion, fantasy boxing.
Fall 1997: The Search For The Next Great Heavyweight (color). Plus: Jesse Ferguson, fantasy boxing, Foreman phenomenon.
Winter 1997: If He Never Fights Again ... How Will Mike Tyson Be Remembered? (color). Plus: Roy Jones, Bert Cooper.
Spring 1998: A Look Back At '97 ... A Look Ahead To '98. Plus: Naseem Hamed (color).
Summer 1998: Tomorrow's Superstars: Six Who Will Lead Boxing Into The Next Century (color). Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, David Tua.
Fall 1998: Piecing Together The Perfect Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya (color), Riddick Bowe.
Winter 1998: Why Trinidad's Gonna Kick Oscar's Golden Butt (color). Plus: Foreman-Holmes, 10 fights that changed history.
Spring 1999: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Ike Quartey: World Boxing Picks The Winner (color). Plus: Mike Tyson debate, 10 greatest welterweight fights of all-time.
Summer 1999: To Hell With The Judges! Lennox Lewis Is The Champ! Plus: De La Hoya-Trinidad preview, the anti-Tyson era, Terronn Millett.
Fall 1999: Danger Ahead! Is Oscar's Macho Madness Dangerous To His Health? Plus: Ali vs. today's top 10, kayo victims, heavyweight report card.
Winter 1999: Why De La Hoya Deserved The Decision Over Trinidad. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Mark Johnson, heavyweight report card, seniors.
Spring 2000: Now We Know Grant's A *Fighter*! (We Just Don't Know How Good A Fighter). Plus: Fernando Vargas, Muhammad Ali, crying game.
Summer 2000: Mosley vs. De La Hoya: Why It's Happening ... Who Will Win! Plus: Paul Spadafora, Oba Carr, suffering survivors.
Fall 2000: 10 Reasons Mike Tyson Can Beat Lennox Lewis. Plus: Arturo Gatti, Felix Trinidad, Mike Griffith.
[All-color beginning with the March 2001 issue]
March 2001: The Ultimate Boxing Ratings. Plus: Tyson-Golota, Marco Antonio Barrera, Joel Cassamayor.
July 2001: Judah vs. Tszyu: Our Forecast Of The Unification Showdown. Plus: Trinidad-Joppy preview, Dynamite Dozen, comebacks.
Sept. 2001: It's Time To Flex Your Muscles, Roy: Fight The Trinidad-Hopkins Winner Next! Plus: Laila-Jacqui, Floyd Mayweather, greatest upsets.

☐ FEB/91	☐ AUG/92	☐ APR/94	☐ OCT/95	☐ FAL/97	☐ WIN/99
☐ APR/91	☐ OCT/92	☐ AUG/94	☐ DEC/95	☐ WIN/97	☐ SPR/00
☐ JUN/91	☐ DEC/92	☐ OCT/94	☐ FEB/96	☐ SPR/98	☐ SUM/00
☐ AUG/91	☐ FEB/93	☐ DEC/94	☐ APR/96	☐ SUM/98	☐ FAL/00
☐ OCT/91	☐ APR/93	☐ JAN/95	☐ JUN/96	☐ FAL/98	☐ MAR/01
☐ DEC/91	☐ JUN/93	☐ FEB/95	☐ FAL/96	☐ WIN/98	☐ JUL/01
☐ FEB/92	☐ AUG/93	☐ APR/95	☐ WIN/96	☐ SPR/99	☐ SEP/01
☐ APR/92	☐ DEC/93	☐ JUN/95	☐ SPR/97	☐ SUM/99	
☐ JUN/92	☐ FEB/94	☐ AUG/95	☐ SUM/97	☐ FAL/99	

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice:_____

WORLD BOXING

ONLY $5 EACH

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $____ (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt._____

City_____

State _____ Zip_____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via boat mail, or $3 for every back issue to be sent via airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

5765/09-01

PHOTO BY GEORGE FEDER

PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

HASIM RAHMAN

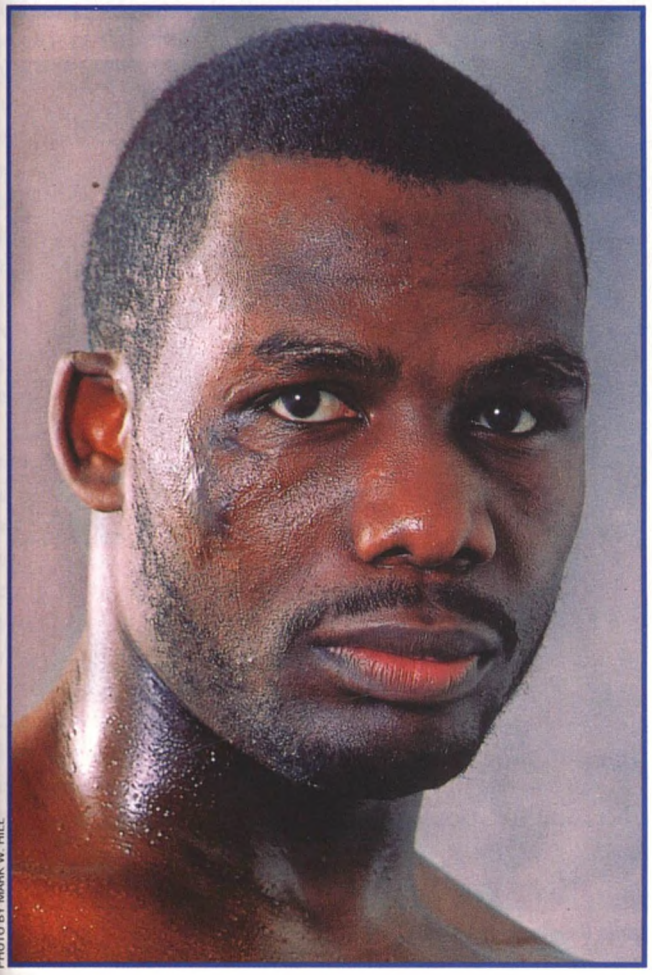


PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Birthdate: November 7, 1972

Birthplace: Baltimore, Maryland

Residence: Baltimore, Maryland

Weight Class: Heavyweight

Height: 6'2½"

Reach: 81"

Professional Record: 35-2 (29)

World Titles: World/IBF/WBC heavyweight (April 22, 2001-present)

Handlers: Stan Hoffman & Steve Nelson, co-managers; Adrian Davis, trainer

Background: Turned pro in December 1994 after only eight amateur bouts. Won USBA belt in July '97 and IBF Intercontinental title in April '98. Unbeaten streak ended in 30th bout, when he lost to David Tua under highly controversial circumstances in December '98. Career as top contender seemed over after kayo loss to Oleg Maskaev in November '99, but won heavyweight title four fights later, knocking out Lennox Lewis in a colossal upset.

Style: Adaptable boxer-cum-slugger

Strengths: Punching power, jab, strength, determination, confidence

Weaknesses: Chin, modest speed

Best Performance: Shocked the world by knocking out Lennox Lewis with a single right hand in a bout many considered little more than a tuneup for the defending champion.

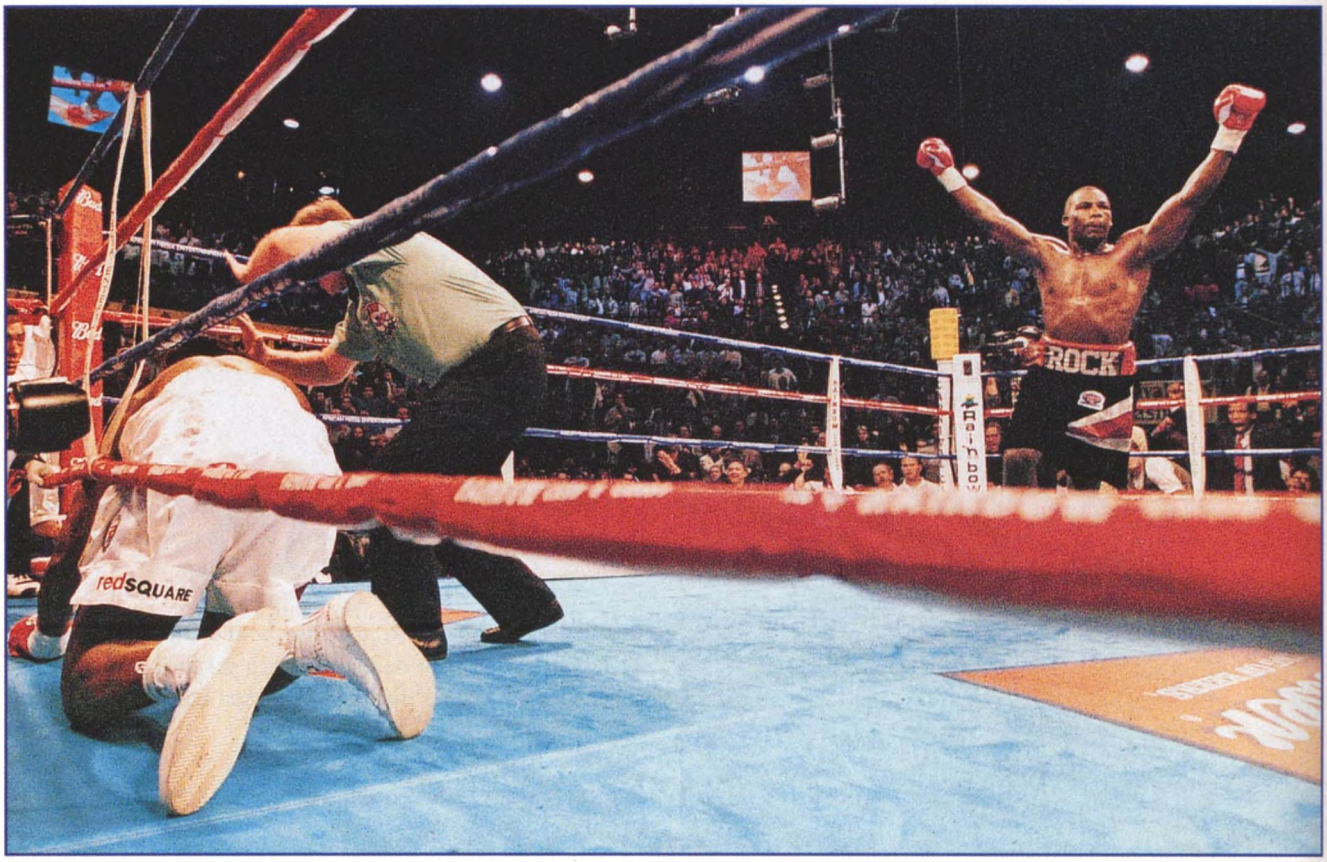
Worst Performance: Came into bout with Oleg Maskaev overconfident and out of shape, which resulted in spectacular knockout loss when a right hand knocked him clean out of the ring.

Future: Lucrative rematch with Lewis.

REPORT CARD:

Boxing Ability	B+
Power	A
Defense	B
Ring Generalship	B+
Experience	A-
Quality of Opposition	A-
Chin	B-
Stamina	B
Overall Grade	B+

HASIM RAHMAN'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS



The ref comes to Lewis' aid, while Rahman celebrates

1 KO 5 Lennox Lewis, April 22, 2001, Johannesburg, South Africa

It is often the subplot, as much as what happens inside the ring, that elevates a fight to legendary status. And when historians look back on Lewis' fall from grace at the hands of Rahman, the emphasis will be on the perils of overconfidence and the rewards of preparation. Like the squirrel who goofed off instead gathering nuts for the winter, Lewis has become a symbol of sloth, the fool in a classic object lesson that preaches the rewards of diligence.

But such a reading of the shocking events that unfolded in South Africa is not entirely fair to Rahman. It infers that the only reason he won was because Lewis failed to take the contest seriously. And while it's true that Lewis didn't help himself by taking time out from training camp to appear in a movie and then arriving too late in Johannesburg to properly acclimate himself to the nearly 6,000 feet elevation, Rahman had more going for him than just being in the right place at the right time.

Yes, opportunity knocked, and Rahman answered with a right hand to the chin that made him an instant millionaire, but he couldn't have pulled it off without being a pretty damned good fighter to start with. Plenty of guys could have done exactly what Rahman did—trained harder than they ever had before and gone to South Africa two months prior to the fight—and still have gotten their butts kicked by Lewis.

And let's not forget, both Lewis and his trainer, Emanuel Steward, swear the defending champ was in top shape, regardless of the fact that he weighed a career-high 253 pounds. Their story is that Lewis got clipped by a lucky punch, but when you're aiming for a guy's chin and you hit it, there's nothing lucky about it, and in their heart of hearts, Lewis and Steward know it.

The record books will simply say that at 2:32 of the fifth round, Rahman, having leveled Lewis with a right hand, became heavyweight champion of the world. But the magnitude of the upset and the story behind the story have made the fight a metaphor from which we all can learn. Yes, pride probably proceeded Lewis' fall, but it shouldn't be forgotten that it was Rahman's right hand that propelled him over the precipice and into the realm of former champions, a feat that has earned both the fight and its winner a celebrated place in boxing lore.

2 KO 7 Corrie Sanders, May 20, 2000, Atlantic City, New Jersey

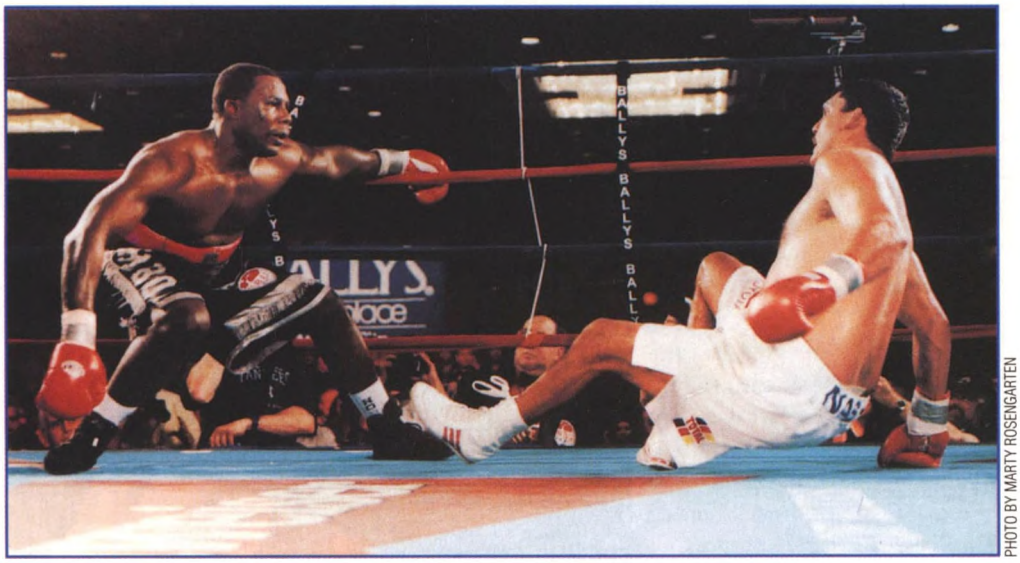


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Rahman grabs the rope to prevent double knockdown against Sanders

There are no helping hands inside a boxing ring. You're on your own, just like the guy in the other corner trying to knock your head off. But when Rahman reached out for help in the fourth round of his crucial fight with Sanders, he found an ally in the second strand of the ring ropes, which he grabbed just in time to prevent himself from suffering what would have been his second knockdown of the fight.

The remarkable moment came immediately after both men had landed simultaneous bombs, and although Rahman saved himself from a count, Sanders kept on falling until his butt hit the canvas. It was perhaps the most memorable instant in a wild punchout that highlighted both Rahman's strengths and weaknesses. But in the end, it was his fighting instincts, the same instincts that made him grab the rope, that enabled "The Rock" to prevail.

The South African southpaw got off to a brisk start, hurting Rahman with a quick left-right near the end of the second round. There was more trouble waiting for the American in the third, and when a wicked left uppercut pitched him into the ropes, referee Eddie Cotton called it a knockdown. But when Sanders tried to press his advantage, Rahman floored him with a counter right.

It was following the near double-knockdown in the fourth that Rahman took control of what had been a tumultuous, seesaw slugfest. The end came in the seventh when Sanders walked into a counter right that left him virtually helpless on the ropes, where Rahman pounded him with close to 40 unanswered punches before Cotton called a halt, 1:50 into the round.

Rahman would never have gotten the opportunity to fight Lewis for the title if he had lost to Sanders. But with a little help from the ropes and a huge assist from his fighting heart, two fights later he was the heavyweight champion of the world.

3 KO by 10 David Tua, December 19, 1998, Miami, Florida

The excuses fighters make for their losses are usually both a crock and a way to fortify their egos for the next fight. But the circumstances surrounding Rahman's first professional defeat were so controversial, few would dispute that he was the victim of a blatant ripoff.

The bout was an eliminator, with the winner guaranteed a shot at then-IBF champion Evander Holyfield. For most of the first eight rounds, Rahman had boxed extremely well, moving laterally away from the Samoan's murderous left hook, all the while popping him with teeth-rattling jabs and occasional straight rights. Overall, it had been a pretty monotonous affair, such was Rahman's domination.

Nonetheless, Tua never stopped trying to get inside, and as the ninth round drew to a close, he was starting to enjoy some modest success. Rahman was pinned on the ropes and looking a bit fatigued when the bell rang. But Tua, who had been told by frantic cornerman Lou Duva to "do anything" to win, wasn't about let a little thing like the bell stop him. Rahman had already relaxed his guard and was preparing to return to his corner when Tua landed a ferocious left hook, a good second or two after the round had ended.

Under the existing rules, Tua should have been penalized for the flagrant foul, and Rahman should have been given extra time to recover. But referee Telis Assimenios failed to do either, and it was a still-groggy Rahman who answered the bell for the 10th

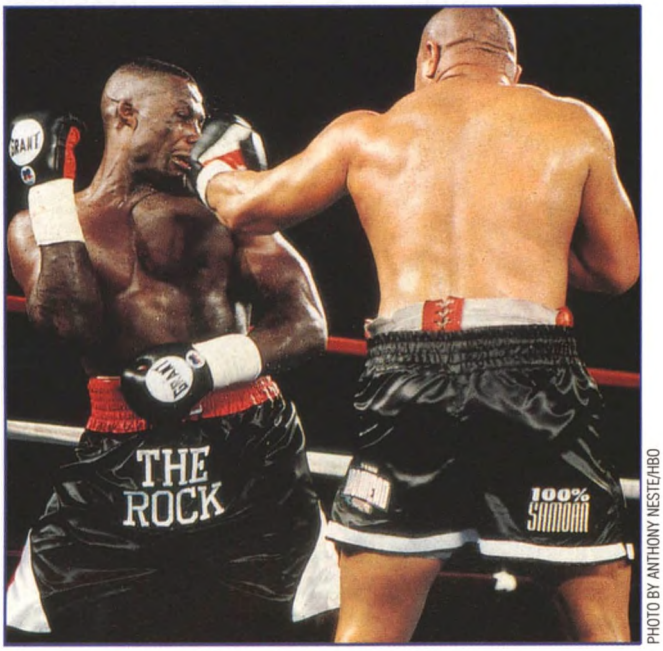
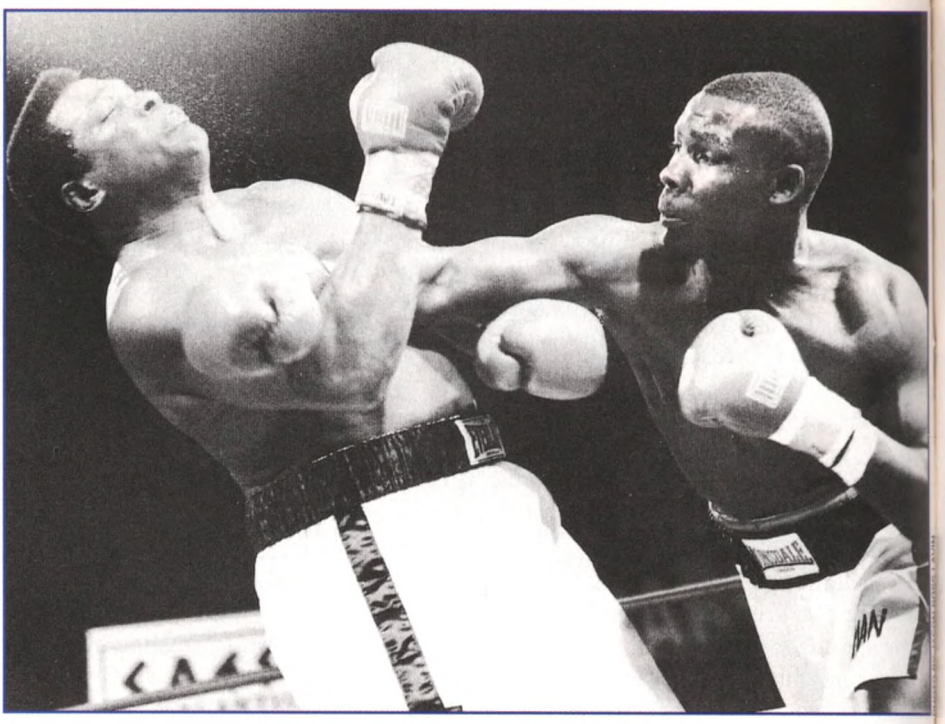


PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Tua lands after-the-bell hook

round. Tua immediately pounced, barged Rahman into the ropes, and opened up with both hands. Several hard shots thudded home, but many others missed, and Rahman was still clear-eyed and defending himself when Assimenios—may his name live in infamy—stepped in and stopped the fight 35 seconds into the round.

If ever a loss deserved an asterisk next to it, it's this one. And for that reason, and the fact that prior to Tua's cheapshot Rahman was fighting a highly disciplined and effective fight, it still ranks among The Rock's finest performances.



Berbick has his head snapped by a Rahman right

4 W 10 Trevor Berbick, October 15, 1996, Atlantic City

Virtually all fighters who obtain any sort of prominence have at least one or two ex-champions on their record. Not only does it enhance their resume, it gives them the sort of invaluable experience they can only get from tangling with someone who has already been where they're trying to go.

Berbick was the first and, to date, only former champ Rahman has fought. They met in Rahman's 18th pro fight, and although the last man to fight Muhammad Ali was a decade removed from his brief reign as WBC titlist, he'd won 11 of his last 13 outing going into the fight and was an appropriate test at this stage of Rahman's career.

Rahman opened with a rush, decking Berbick with a pair of rights in the first round, but couldn't finish him. The cagey old campaigner lasted the distance, but had to call upon every bit of the experience he'd acquired in 55 fights to do so.

"I think he has great potential," said the gracious loser, who, as it turned out, knew what he was talking about.

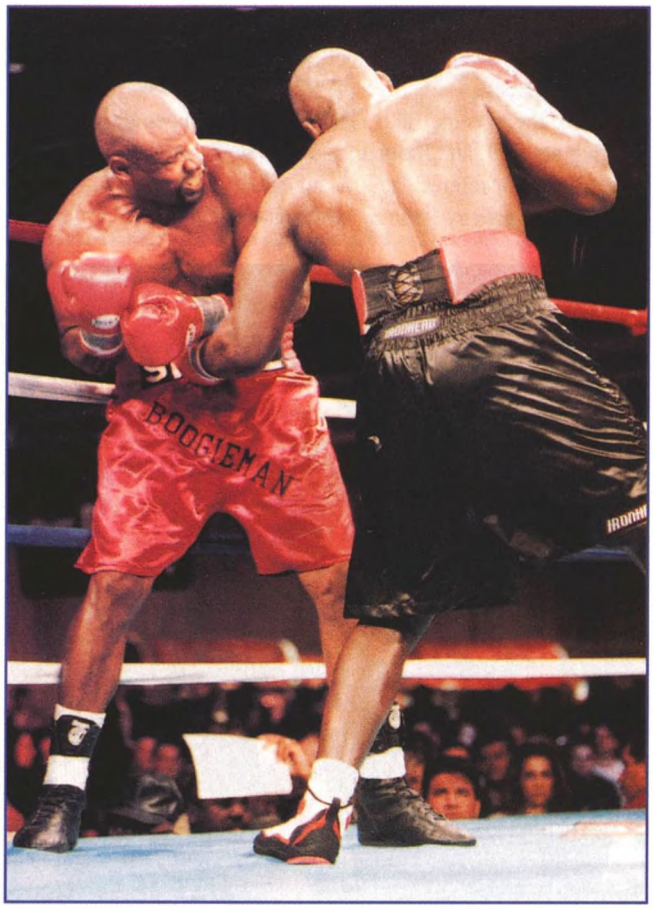


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

"The Rock" goes to "The Boogieman's" body

5 KO 2 Steve Pannell, April 21, 1998, Marksville, Louisiana

The hardware they were fighting for, the IBF Intercontinental belt, didn't mean a helluva lot, but both Rahman and Pannell, who was riding a 15-bout winning streak, were up-and-comers eager for any kind of recognition they could muster.

Anxious to impress, Pannell came out with both guns blazing at the opening bell and nailed Rahman with a good right, but his aggressive tactics soon backfired. Late in the round, Rahman connected with five solid punches, the last of which, a booming overhand right, floored Pannell for a mandatory eight-count.

In the second, it didn't take Rahman long to pick up where he'd left off, and a hook soon sent Pannell flying into the ropes for another knockdown. He beat the count, but his legs were gone and he fell twice before a glancing left hook put him down for the full count at the 1:48 mark. As is often the case when a pair of prospects clash, one went on to fame and fortune, while the other quickly faded from contention.

6 KO 5 Michael Rush, March 12, 1999, New York, New York

Sometimes, the first loss ruins a fighter. His confidence gone, he'll never again fight with the same assurance as before, and that's why the Rush match was so important to Rahman. It was his first start since the controversial knockout loss to Tua, a psychological hurdle he had to clear before resuming his march to the title.

True, Rush wasn't exactly a killer, but he was respectable, coming in with a 17-3-1 (10) record, including a victory over the always dangerous Terrance Lewis. His fast hands enabled him to connect on a fairly regular basis against Rahman, who seemed almost casual in his pursuit. But Rush lacked the punch to hurt his larger, stronger foe, and after surviving a rough patch in the third, he fell apart when Rahman opened a cut over his left eye in the fifth, and dropped to one knee. The referee led him to his corner, and after a brief deliberation, the fight was stopped. Rahman was back in business again.

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

Rahman poses after Puritty victory

7 W 12 Obed Sullivan, November 1, 1997, New York

This was not the Sullivan of today. This was before he was whacked out by Michael Grant, Vitali Klitschko, and Tua, and forever relegated to a journeyman role. No, back in late-'97, the former U.S. Marine was a prospect in his own right, having only lost once in 34 pro outings.

The match was not a particularly scintillating one. Sullivan began well and jabbed open a nick over Rahman's left eye. Meanwhile, Rahman forced the action, and when Sullivan faded the second half of the fight, did enough positive work to win a majority decision. It wasn't pretty, and afterward nobody was talking about Rahman being the next champ, but at that point of their respective careers, it was a solid win that helped push the winner to the next level.

8 W 12 Jesse Ferguson, January 31, 1998, Atlantic City

It has become a rite of passage for all heavyweight hopefuls to get past old warhorse Ferguson. Mike Tyson did it, so did Buster Douglas, Riddick Bowe, Michael Dokes, Oliver McCall, and Frank Bruno. Rahman passed the test with a unanimous decision, but failed to impress doing so. He seemed unduly respectful of Ferguson, and didn't really open up until the final round when he dropped the veteran for an eight-count.

9 W 10 Ross Puritty, March 26, 1996, Rochester, New York

When it's time for matchmakers to round up the usual suspect to feed to a heavyweight prospect, Puritty is generally among the culprits. He's good enough to give any neophyte a decent workout, and has even been known to spring an upset every now and then. In fact, two years after dropping a unanimous decision to Rahman, Puritty stopped Wladimir Klitschko. So, in retrospect, The Rock's relatively easy victory was a respectable result.

10 W 10 Marion Wilson, March 1, 2000, Woodland, Maryland

The was very similar to Rahman's victory over Rush, only this time, Rahman was coming off a far more definitive loss, for it was the Baltimore brawler's first outing since the Maskaev debacle.

Wilson is another of those incredibly durable journeyman who always manages to give even the very best a useful workout. In fact, he's never been stopped in more than 50 pro bouts, and provided Rahman with just what he needed: a win he had to work for.

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF HASIM RAHMAN

PHOTO BY PAT ORR

On the attack against Tui Toia

1994		
Dec. 3	Gregory Herrington, Las Vegas	KO 1

1995		
Jan. 6	Robert Jackson, Virginia Beach, VA	KO 1
Jan. 11	Dennis Cain, Woodlawn, MD	KO 2
March 28	Jeff Williams, Bay St. Louis, MS	W 4
June 6	Eric Valentine, Woodlawn	KO 1
July 13	Larry Davis, Greenbelt, MD	KO 2
Aug. 26	Carl McGrew, Chicago, IL	KO 1
Sept. 12	Matt Green, Woodlawn	KO 1
Oct. 10	James Johnson, Rochester, NY	KO 3
Dec. 13	Mike Robinson, Atlantic City	KO 1

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

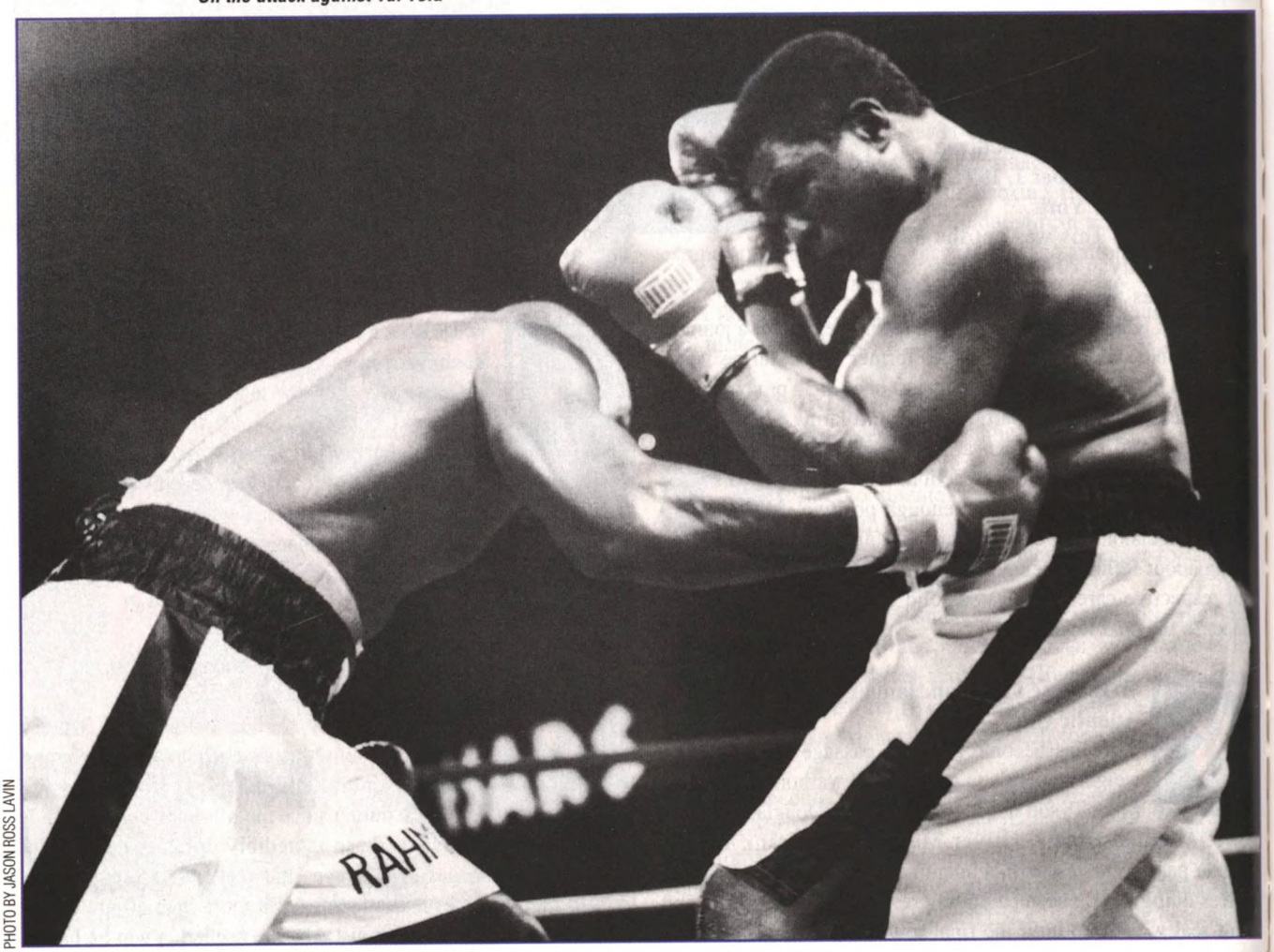


PHOTO BY JASON ROSS LAVIN

Trevor Berbick's body presents a big target

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Raking David Tua with an uppercut

1996

Feb. 9	Bradley Rone, Atlantic City	KO 1
March 9	Mike Mitchell, Atlantic City	KO 1
March 26	Ross Puritty, Rochester	W 10
May 3	Steve Edwards, Moline, IL	KO 2
June 4	Tim Knight, Woodlawn	KO 4
June 9	Martin Foster, Bushkill, PA	KO 2
Aug. 8	Mark Young, Lake Charles, LA	KO 3
Oct. 15	Trevor Berbick, Atlantic City	W 10
Nov. 8	Brian Sargent, Las Vegas	KO 1
Dec. 3	Marcos Gonzalez, Liverpool, England	KO 1
Dec. 17	Herman Delgado, Pikesville, MD	KO 2

1997

Jan. 9	Marshall Tillman, Beverly Hills, CA	KO 1
July 15	Jeff Wooden, Rochester	KO 9
Nov. 1	Obed Sullivan, New York City	W 12
Dec. 4	Tui Toia, Albany, NY	KO 1

1988

Jan. 31	Jesse Ferguson, Atlantic City	W 12
March 14	Melvin Foster, Moscow, Russia	KO 2
April 21	Steve Pannell, Lake Charles	KO 2
July 9	Garing Lane, Marksville, LA	KO 2
Dec. 19	David Tua, Miami, FL	KO by 10

1999

March 12	Michael Rush, New York City	KO 5
April 15	Arthur Weathers, Miami	KO 1
Nov. 6	Oleg Maskaev, Atlantic City	KO by 8

2000

March 1	Marion Wilson, Woodlawn	W 10
May 20	Corrie Sanders, Atlantic City	KO 7
Aug. 4	Frankie Swindell, Las Vegas	KO 7

2001

April 22	Lennox Lewis, Johannesburg, S. Africa	KO 5
	(Wins World/WBC/IBF Heavyweight Titles)	

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
37	35	2	0	29

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

A hooks finds Oleg Maskaev's face

MEMORABLE QUOTES

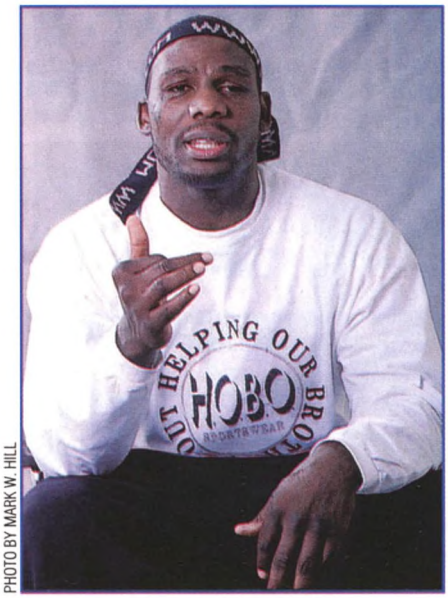


PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

The Rock makes a point

"I know I make mistakes, but that doesn't bother me. What will bother me is if I stop listening and learning."

—1997, Rahman evaluating his progress

"This kid has shown a complete lack of character. Personally, I don't care if he eventually becomes heavyweight champion, he'll never appear on HBO again."

—1998, HBO's Lou DiBella reacting to Rahman pulling out of a fight

"I can't say nothing disrespectful about Mr. Marciano. I think it would probably end in a no-contest or a draw or something. I really would find it extremely disrespectful to say I would win, plus I think it's really unfair to him because he was a small heavyweight fighting in a different era."

—1999, Rahman comparing himself to the original "Rock"

"Desperate men do desperate things, and David Tua was flat-out desperate. Some people might say what happened was an accident, but I know better. Definitely, it was intentional."

—1999, Rahman on Tua's after-the-bell shot

"People are going to see a whole new fighter against Lennox Lewis, and I'm going to shock the world! They're giving me no chance, and that's ridiculous. But they'll see. I'm going to knock Lennox out."

—2001, Rahman three months prior to backing up his boast

"Should Lennox Lewis lose his WBC and IBF heavyweight championship to 20-1 underdog Hasim Rahman this weekend, he can blame the defeat on his own smugness as much as on anything done by Rahman."

—2001, Bernard Fernandez writing in the Philadelphia Daily News *a few days before Rahman iced Lewis*

"No Lennox and Tyson, no Lennox and Tyson!"

—2001, Rahman immediately after knocking out Lewis

"He wiped my slate clean from what happened to me in Africa. Now they'll talk about what happened to Lewis. I love it."

—2001, George Foreman comparing his loss to Muhammad Ali in Zaire to Lewis' downfall in Johannesburg

"While an HBO executive with a check for $5.3-million searched the annual Boxing Writers dinner for Hasim Rahman Thursday night, the new heavyweight champion of the world was 10 blocks away, sitting next to Don King and a bag stuffed with $500,000 in cash."

—2001, the Boston Globe's *Ron Borges on how King lured Rahman away from former promoter Cedric Kushner*

"I feel like poetic justice has been served. Kushner dogged me so bad after I lost to Tua and Maskaev. He had no belief in me whatsoever ... He did what he wanted, but I finally get the last laugh."

—2001, Rahman on leaving Kushner ■

PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Rahman and trainer Adrian Davis

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE

Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**

December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**

February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**

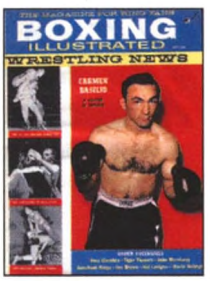
April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **$30**

June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**

December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**

February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

May 1959 ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**

June 1959 ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**

September 1959 ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**

October 1962 ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**

October 1963 ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**

February 1964 ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS

- ☐ May 1959
- ☐ June 1959
- ☐ September 1959
- ☐ October 1962
- ☐ October 1963
- ☐ February 1964

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the collector's editions I've checked. I am enclosing $_____ as payment in full or have provided my credit card number below. (Please refer to magazine descriptions for specific prices.) In the event any of my requested publications is sold out, I will accept the following magazine as a substitute:_____.

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ **APT.** _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ **ZIP** _____

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature:_____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and $3 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. All sales final. No exchanges will be made.

5642/05-01

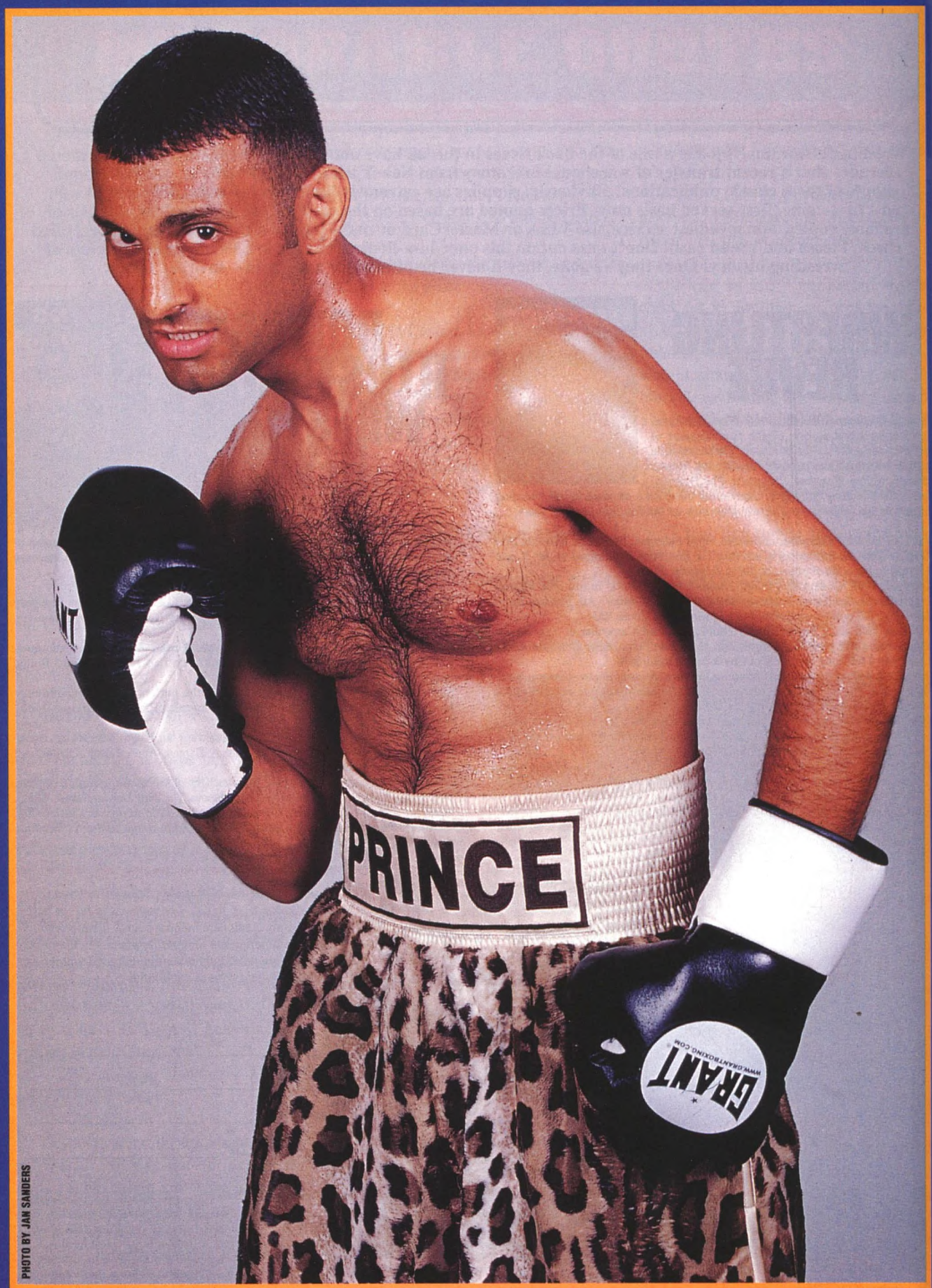


PHOTO BY JAM SANDERS

NASEEM HAMED

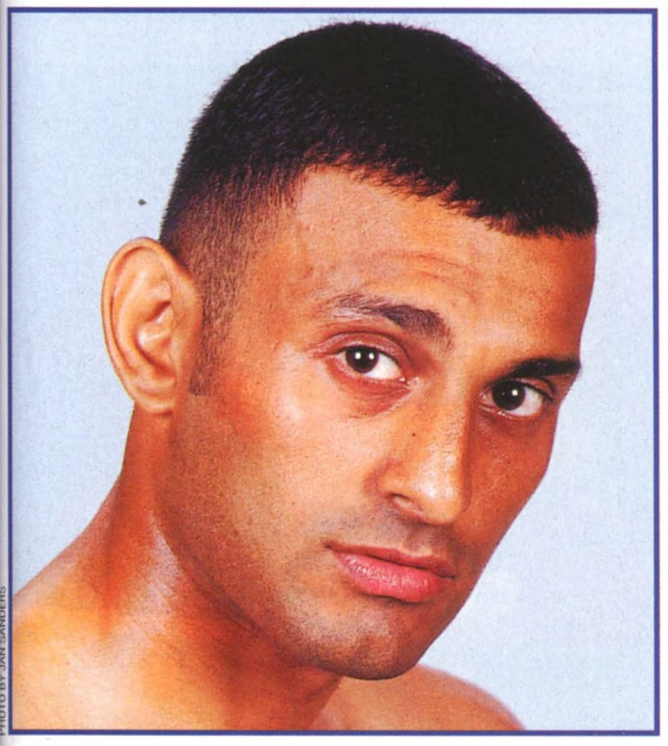


PHOTO BY JAN SCHERR

Birthdate: February 12, 1974

Birthplace: Sheffield, England

Residence: Sheffield, England

Weight Class: Featherweight

Height: 5'3"

Reach: 63"

Professional Record: 35-1 (31)

World Titles: IBF featherweight (February 8, 1997-December 13, 1997), WBC featherweight (October 23, 1999-January 10, 2000)

Handlers: Riath Hamed, manager; Oscar Suarez, trainer

Background: Discovered fighting on a playground at the age of eight by Brendan Ingle, who took the youngster under his wing and helped hone his unique style. Turned pro in April 1992, won the European bantamweight title in May '94 in his 12th pro fight, and moved up to featherweight and brought prestige to the WBO belt by winning it in September '95. Added the IBF title in February '97, but relinquished it after one defense. Parted ways acrimoniously with Ingle in '98, and replaced him with the team of Oscar Suarez and Emanuel Steward. Won the WBC 126-pound title in October '99, but when forced to choose between that and his WBO strap, gave up the WBC bauble without making a single defense. After winning his first 35 fights, lost for the first time in April '01 bout with Marco Antonio Barrera. Severed ties with Steward after that fight.

Style: Outrageously unorthodox switch-hitting powerpuncher

Strengths: Two-fisted knockout power, use of angles, hand and foot speed

Weaknesses: Balance, inconsistent conditioning, over-reliance on one-punch power

Best Performance: Earned recognition as the best featherweight in the world by overpowering IBF champion Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson in eight rounds in February '97.

Worst Performance: Was soundly outboxed by 3-1 underdog Marco Antonio Barrera in April '01, failing to make adjustments on his way to losing by unanimous decision.

Future: Comeback from lone career defeat is tentatively scheduled to begin in November against a second-rate opponent, followed by a possible bout with the Barrera-Erik Morales winner.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	B+
Power	A+
Defense	B
Ring Generalship	A-
Experience	A-
Quality of Opposition	B
Chin	B+
Stamina	B
Overall Grade	B+

NASEEM HAMED'S 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

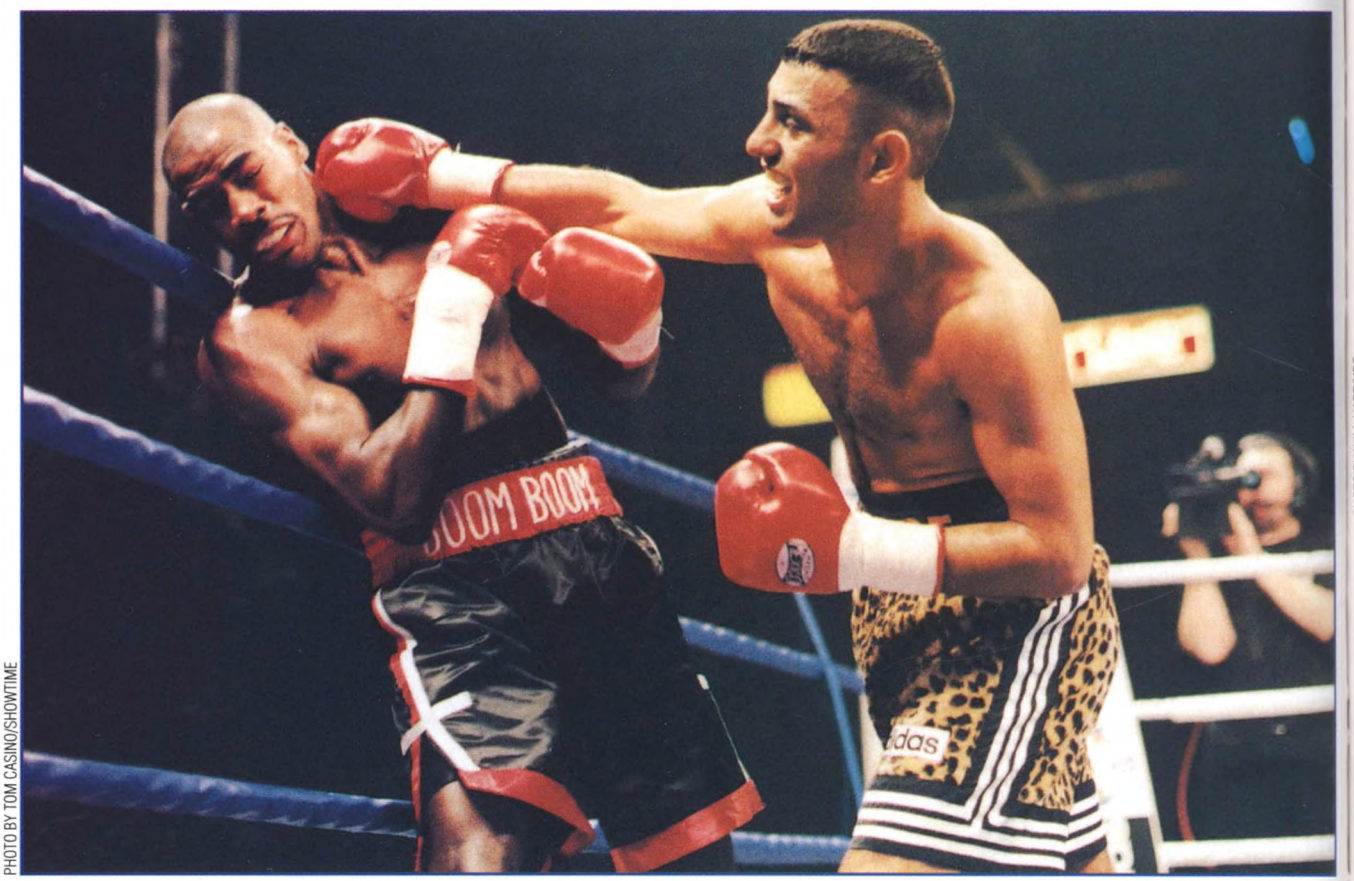


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Hamed takes out Johnson

1 KO 8 Tom Johnson, February 8, 1997, London, England

Critics of Hamed like to argue that, despite general recognition as the best featherweight in the world from 1997 to 2001, he never really beat a top-notch, prime fighter. Thankfully for Hamed's supporters, he has the Johnson fight to give them some ammunition against that argument. Going into that bout, Johnson was the IBF champ and the top 126-pounder in most impartial rankings; he hadn't lost in over five years, and he had made 11 title defenses. Yes, "Boom Boom" was 32 years old, but he was still going strong, had never been knocked out, and in fact, hasn't been kayoed since.

But Hamed, save for a couple of scary moments, took him to school. "The Prince" rocked Johnson with a right hand in the opening round and outboxed him in the second. Johnson got untracked in the third, dropping a nonchalant Naz with an overhand right just before the bell (yet not getting credit for the knockdown from referee Rudy Battle). Hamed was back on top in the fourth, hurting Boom Boom with another right to the jaw. Johnson came back in the fifth and buckled Hamed's knees with a right, but The Prince's power took over for good in the seventh, when a right staggered the champion and two hard lefts nearly floored him late in the round. Naz finished the job in the eighth, landing with both hands and finally dropping Johnson with a right uppercut. Johnson got up, but the fight was halted at the 2:27 mark.

"Tom Johnson was a great champion, but I will be a legend," Hamed said afterward. The latter part of that statement has yet to be proven, but his comment about Johnson was true, and that's why this stands up as evidence that Naz isn't *all* hype.

2 KO 4 Kevin Kelley, December 19, 1997, New York, New York

Hamed's American debut against former WBC feather champ Kelley may ultimately be remembered as the night that ruined The Prince. It exposed him as too defensively flawed to reach the legendary status he boasted would be his, it turned him into a runner inside the ring and a ducker outside of it, and it set a standard for excitement that has made

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Kelley strikes first, but Naz would laugh last

most subsequent Naz fights comparative disappointments. But so what? It was a helluva lot of fun, and in the end, Naz prevailed via vicious knockout over one of the most credible opponents of his career.

The Madison Square Garden crowd of nearly 12,000 cheered wildly when hometown boy Kelley came to the ring, and almost 10 minutes later, after an extended dance routine and his trademark flip over the top rope, Hamed joined him. Then the real show began.

Late in the first round, Kelley lunged out of the corner with a right hand to The Prince's chin, sending the crowd into an uproar and the British fighter onto his bum. In round two, Hamed lost his balance and touched down again, but came back to knock down Kelley with a blazing counter right hand moments later. In the fourth, all hell broke loose. First, Hamed floored Kelley with a heavy combination, then "The Flushing Flash" came back and tallied a knockdown when Naz' glove touched the canvas, and finally Hamed ended the war at the 2:27 mark with a crushing left to the temple. In total, there were six knockdowns in less than four rounds, and the final one cemented Hamed's position as a star on both sides of the Atlantic.

3

KO 4 Vuyani Bungu, March 11, 2000, London

It's easy to dismiss Bungu as an undersized, washed-up, hopelessly frightened opponent, but most of those criticisms didn't come out until after Hamed scorched him in four one-sided rounds. Before the fight, the South African, who hadn't lost in eight years (including six years as a world champion), was considered just the sort of clever boxer to possibly give Hamed fits. Evidence may now suggest that Bungu was a pushover, but it took one of Hamed's finest performances to create that impression.

Hamed, coming off consecutive lousy showings against Wayne McCullough, Paul Ingle, and Cesar Soto, was dominant en route to restoring his reputation. The Prince jabbed beautifully, never stayed in range long enough for Bungu to get off a measured shot, and ended the proceedings with a wicked straight left that split Bungu's guard and left him unable to continue at the 1:38 mark of the fourth.

And to top things off, the Bungu fight featured Naz' best ring entrance to date, his magnificent flying carpet ride high above the crowd at the Olympia.

4

KO 9 Steve Robinson, September 30, 1995, Cardiff, Wales

Forget that Hamed won the WBO featherweight title in this fight; that belt was never widely recognized, and beating a second-tier fighter like Robinson certainly doesn't make anybody a "world" champ. What this fight really did for Hamed was prove that he wasn't just a figment of the British fight press' imagination. Robinson, despite a mediocre 21-9-1 record, was a good fighter on an excellent streak, and Hamed, making his 20th paid appearance (and his first as a 126-pounder), overcame his first noteworthy test with astonishing ease and effectiveness.

Fighting in Mr. Robinson's neighborhood, Hamed shut out the crowd at Cardiff Rugby Grounds, and then shut out Robinson, winning every minute of every round. Though Robinson kept an extremely tight guard, The Prince found ways to penetrate it. He made Robinson's legs quiver with a right uppercut in round two, floored the Welsh veteran with a four-punch combination in the fifth, and sent Robinson down again with a left hook in the ninth, prompting referee Wiso Fernandez to wave off the fight at 1:40 of the round.

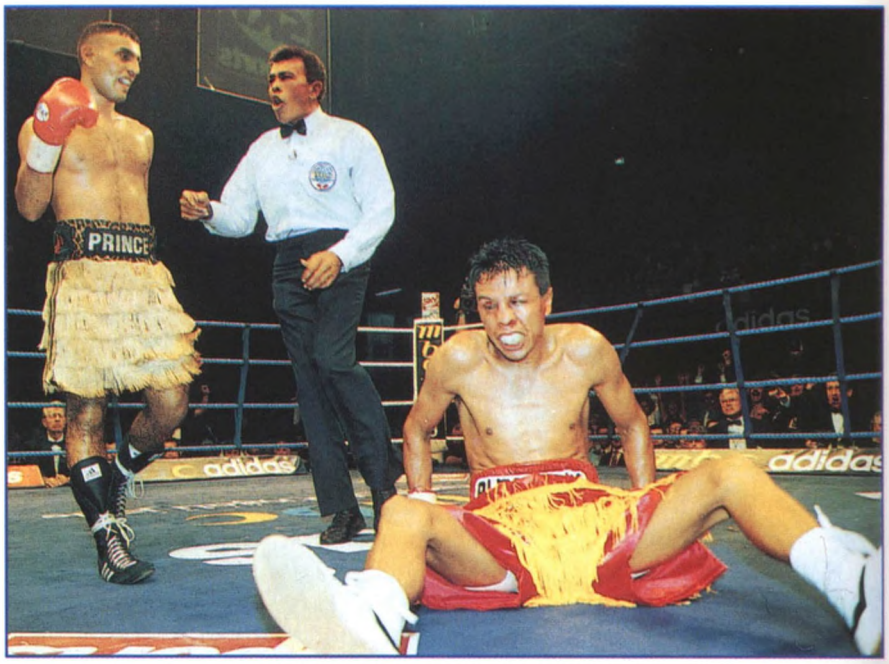
5

KO 11 Manuel Medina, August 31, 1996, Dublin, Ireland

Before fighting Hamed, Mexican veteran Medina held world titles at featherweight on two occasions and posted wins over the likes of Troy Dorsey, Tom Johnson, and Alejandro Gonzalez. Since fighting Hamed, Medina has held a portion of the 126-pound crown for a third time and has scored wins over Hector Lizarraga, Victor Polo, and Frankie Toledo. Yet you don't hear much about Medina when Hamed's greatest victories are being discussed. In fact, if anything, you usually hear about how Hamed struggled and got hit a lot before finally stopping Medina. That's true enough, but Medina may just be the most underrated fighter Naz has ever faced, and a knockout win over a prime, 25-year-old Medina is a

quality achievement any way you slice it.

Hamed's rhythm and accuracy were off, and he was outboxed for much of the first eight rounds, but his power bailed him out. In the second round, Naz put Medina down with a five-punch combination. In the ninth, Medina was floored twice. After a brutal 11th, referee Geno Rodriguez halted the fight to spare the Mexican any further punishment. It was the first time Medina had been stopped in seven years, and an important win for Hamed that set up for his title-winning fight against Tom Johnson.



After a good effort, Medina gets stretched

6 KO 1 Billy Hardy, May 3, 1997, Manchester, England

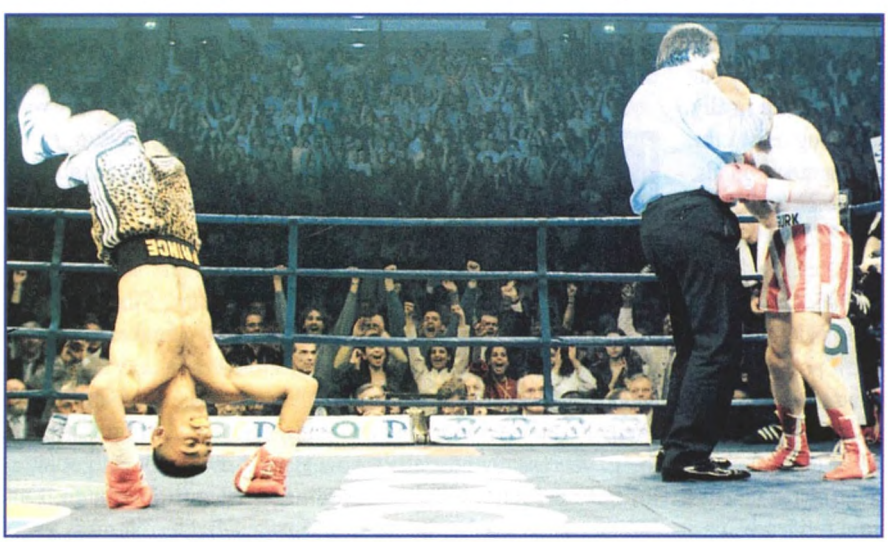
Hamed is no stranger to the early knockout. Twenty-four of 36 opponents have failed to make it past the fourth round against the awesome-punching Prince. And of those 24 quickies, none was more surprising in its expedience than the 93-second blowout of the usually tough Hardy, who never had a chance to win, but who certainly was expected to give Hamed some rounds.

Hardy, who fared respectably in two bantamweight title challenges against Orlando Canizales in the early-'90s, collapsed the moment Hamed landed his first clean punch. It was a devastating right to the face, and the British underdog fell with a look of excruciating pain on his face. He showed guts by getting back to his feet, but a left-right-left combination from The Prince immediately sent him crashing again and ended the brutal encounter.

7 KO 7 Wilfredo Vazquez, April 18, 1998, Manchester

The post-Kevin Kelley version of Hamed has generally been a much more cautious fighter than the pre-Kelley Prince, and that has translated into some brutally unenjoyable performances. His track meet with Wayne McCullough and his foul-fest with Cesar Soto certainly stand out. But there were also some safety-first showings where Hamed still delivered the goods, such as his wipeout of Vuyani Bungu and, in his first fight after the near-disaster against Kelley, his domination of Puerto Rican veteran Vazquez.

Vazquez was the WBA featherweight champ until the absurd organization stripped him for fighting Hamed, and though he was nearing the end of the road at age 37, he still presented some danger. So Naz boxed carefully, used his speed, played the angles, and wreaked havoc when Vazquez provided openings. A left uppercut-left hook combination dropped Vazquez in the third, a straight left floored him in the sixth, and two more knockdowns followed in the seventh, prompting referee Geno Rodriguez to call it off at 2:29 of the round. Hamed did get hit a little bit—a huge counter right hand wobbled him in the second round—but for the most part he showed excellent defense, and integrated it with his usual powerful offense.

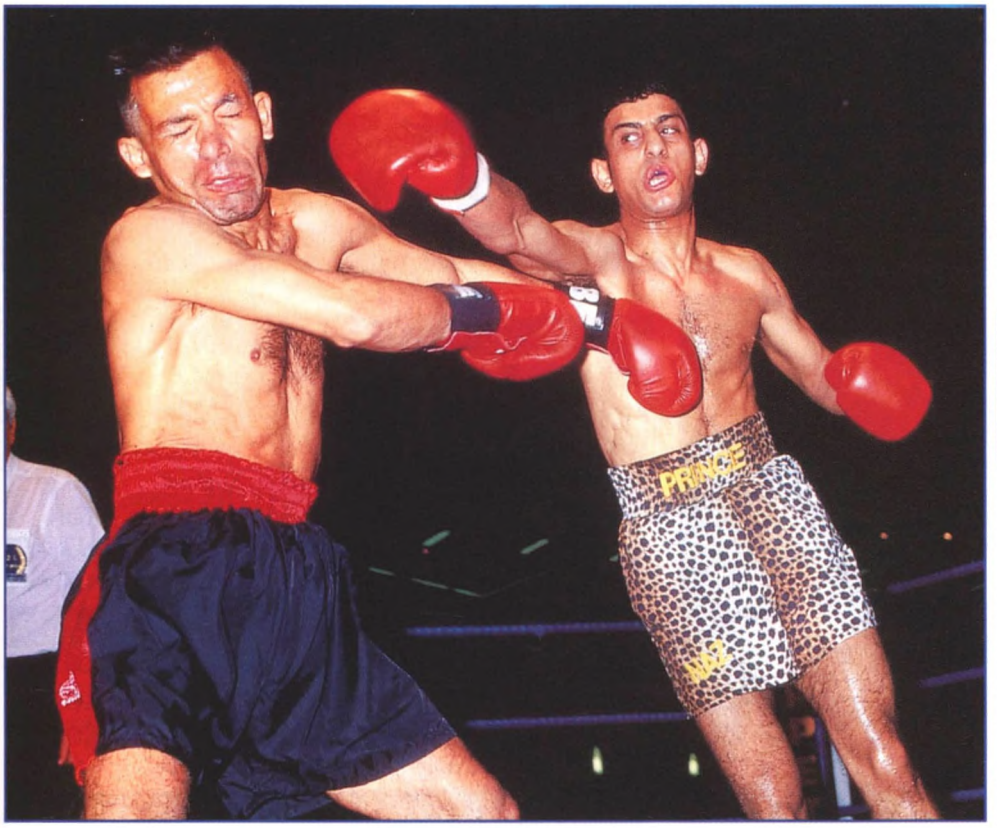


The Prince flips out after hammering Hardy

8 W 12 Vincenzo Belcastro, May 11, 1994, Sheffield, England

Before he proved his worth against Steve Robinson on the world-class level and Tom Johnson on the world-championship level, Hamed's fight with Belcastro was crucial for proving him as a local standout. In his previous 11 fights, Naz faced nobody close to Belcastro's pedigree, but in whitewashing the Italian for the European bantamweight title, Hamed made a strong argument that he was the best prospect in the entire continent.

Although he took some of the shine off his sterling performance by clowning and taunting the brave Belcastro throughout the



Belcastro gets his bell rung

final round, Hamed was awesome otherwise. The Prince dropped Belcastro with a straight left hand from a southpaw stance just seconds into the contest, and dropped him again with a straight right from an orthodox stance in the 11th. He won by scores of 120-107, 120-109, and 119-110, and believe it or not, some at ringside thought those scores were too close! The 20-year-old Hamed had never been beyond six rounds before, but he proved on this night he could go strong for 12—or at least 11, before allowing "The Clown Prince" to take over.

9 KO 2 Daniel Alicea, June 8, 1996, Newcastle, England

Unless your name is Jake LaMotta, if you're a fighter, you're going to find yourself on the canvas eventually. Against Alicea, an undefeated but unheralded Puerto Rican, the Sheffield Prince found out that he isn't "The Bronx Bull" when Alicea clipped him with a straight right hand late in the first round that left Hamed on his duff.

But everything that happened after that makes this one of Hamed's finest performances. He recovered quickly from the first knockdown of his career, and in the second round, blew Alicea away. A left-right and then a lead right toppled Alicea, and Hamed soon finished him with a crunching hook, prompting the stoppage at the 2:46 mark. It wasn't exactly how Naz envisioned his American television debut going, but it was, ultimately, quite spectacular.

10 KO 1 Said Lawal, March 16, 1996, Glasgow, Scotland

Lawal wasn't a bad fighter, or at least you wouldn't have thought he was by looking at his record. The Nigerian had a 17-1-1 mark, with the lone loss coming by decision. But by the time he was 17-2-1, Lawal looked like a bum, and Hamed looked like a truly special puncher.

In his first fight back after a six-month layoff due to a broken right hand, Hamed scored the quickest stoppage of his career, knocking Lawal silly with the very first punch he landed. The fight lasted only 35 seconds. Maybe that's why The Prince takes so long with his ring entrances, so that on nights like this, the fans will still get something for their entertainment dollar.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Alicea pays for knocking down Naz

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF NASEEM HAMED

Hamed wasn't the perfect sportsman against Des Gargano

1992		
April 14	Ricky Beard, Mansfield, England	KO 2
April 25	Shaun Norman, Manchester, England	KO 2
May 23	Andrew Bloomer, Birmingham, England	KO 2
July 14	Miguel Matthews, Mayfair, England	KO 3
Oct. 7	Des Gargano, Sunderland, England	KO 4
Nov. 12	Peter Buckley, Liverpool, England	W 6

1993		
Feb. 24	Alan Ley, Wembley, England	KO 2
May 26	Kevin Jenkins, Mansfield	KO 3
Sept. 24	Chris Clarkson, Dublin, Ireland	KO 2

1994		
Jan. 29	Peter Buckley, Cardiff, Wales	KO 4
April 9	John Miceli, Mansfield	KO 1
May 11	Vincenzo Belcastro, Sheffield, England	W 12
Aug. 17	Antonio Picardi, Sheffield	KO 3

Peter Buckley feels The Prince's power

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Hamed takes a whack from Wayne McCullough

Oct. 12	Freddy Cruz, Sheffield	KO 6
Nov. 19	Laureano Ramirez, Cardiff	KO 3

1995

Jan. 21	Armando Castro, Glasgow, Scotland	KO 4
March 4	Sergio Liendo, Livingston, Scotland	KO 2
May 6	Enrique Angeles, Bristol, England	KO 2
July 1	Juan Polo-Perez, Kensington, England	KO 2
Sept. 30	Steve Robinson, Cardiff	KO 9

1996

March 16	Said Lawal, Glasgow	KO 1
June 8	Daniel Alicea, Newcastle, England	KO 2
Aug. 31	Manuel Medina, Dublin	KO 11
Nov. 9	Remigio Molina, Manchester	KO 2

Naz looks almost conventional jabbing Vuyani Bungu

1997

Feb. 8	Tom Johnson, London *(Wins IBF Featherweight Title)*	KO 8
May 3	Billy Hardy, Manchester *(Retains IBF Featherweight Title)*	KO 1
July 19	Juan Gerardo Cabrera, London	KO 2
Oct. 11	Jose Badillo, Sheffield	KO 7
Dec. 19	Kevin Kelley, New York City	KO 4

1998

April 18	Wilfredo Vazquez, Manchester	KO 7
Oct. 31	Wayne McCullough, Atlantic City	W 12

1999

April 10	Paul Ingle, Manchester	KO 11
Oct. 23	Cesar Soto, Detroit *(Wins WBC Featherweight Title)*	W 12

2000

March 11	Vuyani Bungu, London	KO 4
Aug. 19	Augie Sanchez, Ledyard, CT	KO 4

2001

April 7	Marco Antonio Barrera, Las Vegas	L 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
36	35	1	0	31

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Hamed fires a right at Augie Sanchez

MEMORABLE QUOTES

PHOTO BY GEORGE AZAR

The "king of razzmatazz" prepares for a magic carpet ride

"When I hit them, they can't take the punishment and the power. The power is extraordinary. I'm blessed by God, the power's a gift. I'm too good. I'm not bragging, but I'm too good."

—1995, Hamed showing his humble side

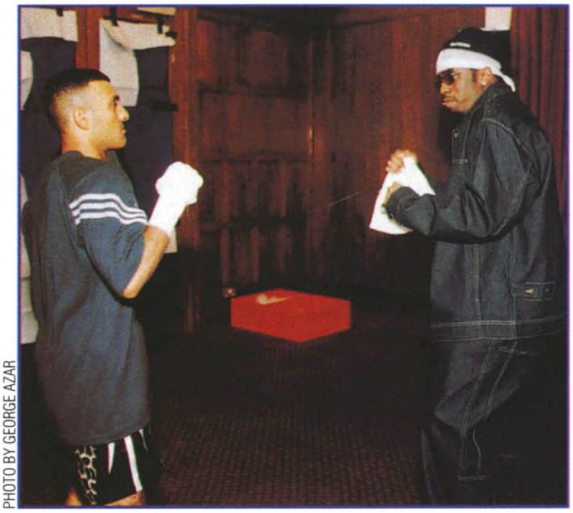


PHOTO BY GEORGE AZAR

Naz and Puff Daddy chat about Ali and The Beatles

"I was testing the canvas for him."

—1996, Hamed on the first-round knockdown he suffered before knocking out Daniel Alicea in the second

"I am the undisputed king of razzmatazz. I put bums on seats."

—1996, Hamed defending his showboating

"The first shot he hit me with, I honestly felt my nose crack. I'm all numb around my teeth."

—1997, Billy Hardy, moments after getting blown out by Hamed

"I'm The Beatles and Muhammad Ali rolled into one."

—1997, Hamed hyping his first fight in America

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Hamed speaks with humility after the loss to Barrera

"After I achieve what I'm going to achieve, people will say I'm better than Ali. Ali could fight only two ways. I can fight five ways."

—1997, Hamed comparing himself to his idol

"You're the best I've ever fought, and I'm the best you've ever fought."

—1997, Hamed to Kevin Kelley after their thrilling slugfest

"He's a paper champion. When Hamed threw me in the air, a referee in the real world of boxing would disqualify anyone. At that moment, I wondered if I was fighting with a boxer, or Hulk Hogan."

—1999, Cesar Soto on Hamed's mid-fight bodyslam in their bout for the WBC featherweight title

"He's a Rolls-Royce being driven at 40 miles per hour. He must take risk fights."

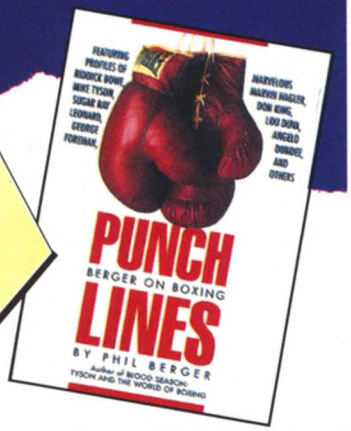
—2000, HBO's Seth Abraham on Hamed's quality of opposition

"He won the fight clearly in my mind. Credit is due to him; he was better than me tonight. This was my first loss. I took it like a champion, and I'll be back."

—2001, Hamed at the press conference following his fight with Marco Antonio Barrera ■

OUR BIGGEST BOXING BOOK SALE EVER!

Every Book Priced Well Below Retail!



BOXING CLEVER by Ralph Oates. So, you think you know a thing or two about the heavyweight division? With more than 1,600 multiple-choice questions and answers devoted exclusively to the big boys, you can test your boxing acumen and quiz your friends. This quiz book is the perfect preamble to a pay-per-view gathering with your boxing buddies. Soft-covered. 171 pages.
BOOK #5454—$7.50

PUNCH LINES: BERGER ON BOXING by Phil Berger. A knockout collection of essays by the former boxing writer for *The New York Times*. Berger takes the reader out of the gym and into the personal lives, intimate thoughts, and emotions of many of the better-known and some of the not-so-well-known) fighters, trainers, and managers. 17 photos. 328 pages.
BOOK #5151—$21.95

BEST OF THE RING: RECAPTURING 70 YEARS OF BOXING CLASSICS by Stanley Weston. This second edition includes the original 83 "Best Of" articles, personally selected by Publisher Stanley Weston, plus a new section on Mike Tyson's return to the ring. The "Best Of" articles were pulled from nearly 900 back issues of *The Ring* and cover every facet of boxing. Every article and photograph is reproduced exactly as it originally appeared. Fully illustrated. 296 pages.
BOOK #707—$27.45

THE PRIZEFIGHTERS by Arlene Schulman. This remarkable collection of simple, direct, and eloquent photographs chronicles the life of the prizefighter—in and out of the ring. Fans of boxing and lovers of fine photographs will cherish this unique book. 176 pages.
BOOK #1515—$22.95

SHADOW BOX by George Plimpton. One of Plimpton's most engaging looks at professional sport through the eyes of an amateur. Stepping into the ring with former light heavyweight champion Archie Moore, Plimpton pauses to wonder why he ever became a participatory journalist—and brings back this timeless look at boxing and its devotees. 351 pages.
BOOK #1616—$11.95

DAN STUART'S FISTIC CARNIVAL by Leo N. Miletich. Stuart, a turn-of-the-century gambler turned boxing promoter, dreamed of promoting a bout between reigning heavyweight champions Jim Corbett and Bob Fitzsimmons. He eventually succeeded, but the

YES, I would like to order the book(s) I have indicated below. I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my purchase.

Name

Address / Apt. #

City State Zip

❑ VISA #

❑ MasterCard #

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ MO/YR

Signature:

❑ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

QTY	BOOK #	TITLE	PRICE
		Sub-total	
		Postage & Handling, add $2.50 per book	
		For orders outside the U.S. add $5 for each book ordered	
		TOTAL ENCLOSED	

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. International money orders in U.S. funds only.

5436/01-01/4c

FAMOUS FIGHTS

Our editors dip into the most extensive boxing photo file in the world to bring you 18 of the greatest fights of all-time. You'll be ringside for all the action and drama, from Louis-Schmeling to Douglas-Tyson. Each fight is accompanied by a quote from a famous eyewitness.

WINNER AND NEW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

A detailed, pictorial look at every title-changing heavyweight bout since John L. Sullivan became the last bareknuckle champion in 1882. Readers will journey, fight by fight, through the rich pageant of heavyweight history. The next best thing to being there.

75 YEARS OF THE RING

The official souvenir magazine of The Ring's 75th Anniversary celebration traces the history of the Sweet Science during THE RING years, 1922-1997. THE RING reviews its annual selections of Fight of the Year, Fighter of the Year, Upset of the Year, and Round of the Year. Also presented are THE RING'S nominees for the best of the last 75 years in eight categories.

Yes, I would like to receive THE RING specials and have enclosed a check or money order for $7, payable to London Publishing Co., for each issue I am ordering (shipping and handling included).

- ❑ Famous Fights
- ❑ Heavyweight Champions
- ❑ 75 Years Of The Ring

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____State___Zip_____

Prices apply in the U.S. only. All other countries please add $1.50 per magazine.International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5418/11-00/4c

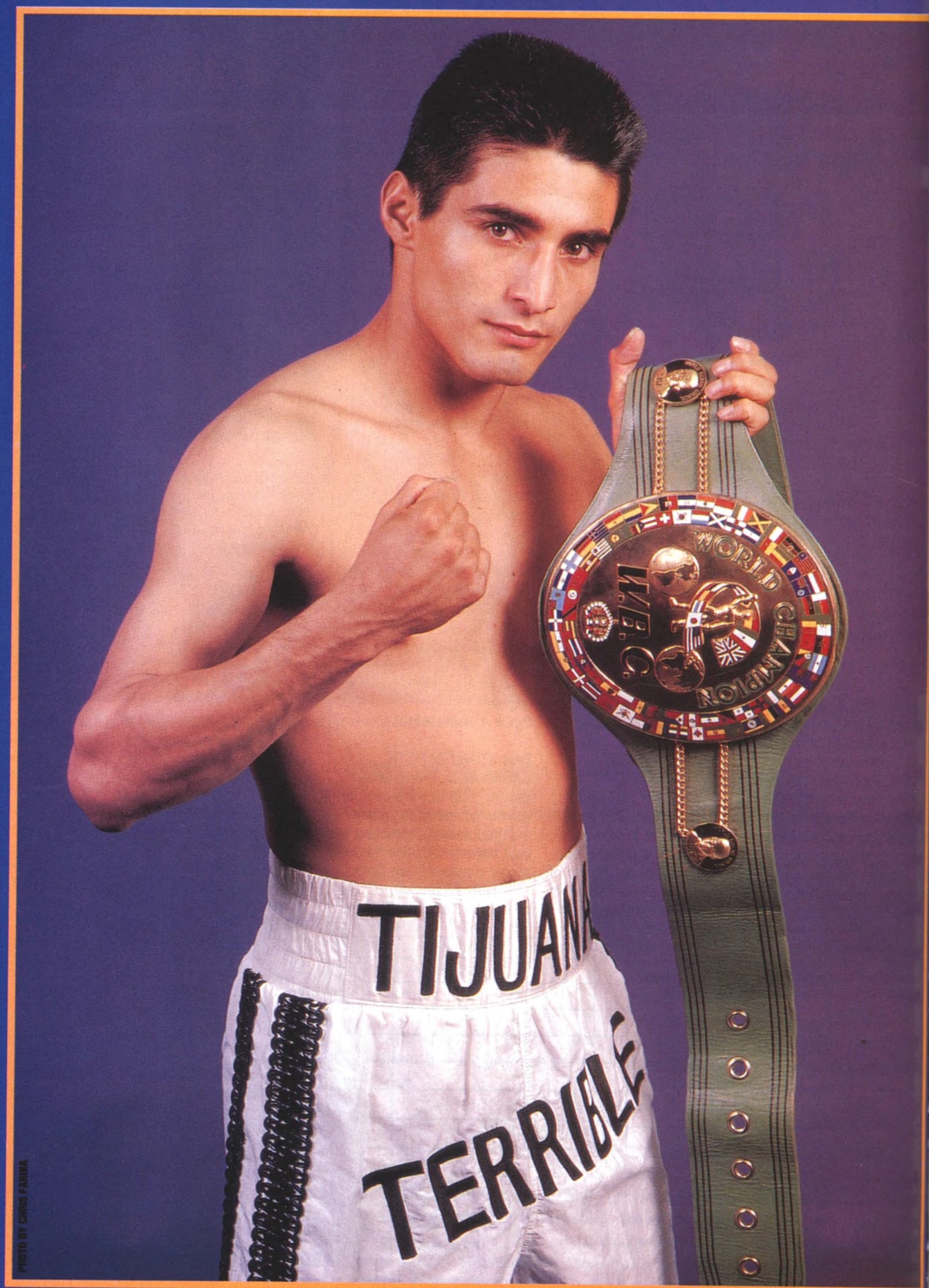
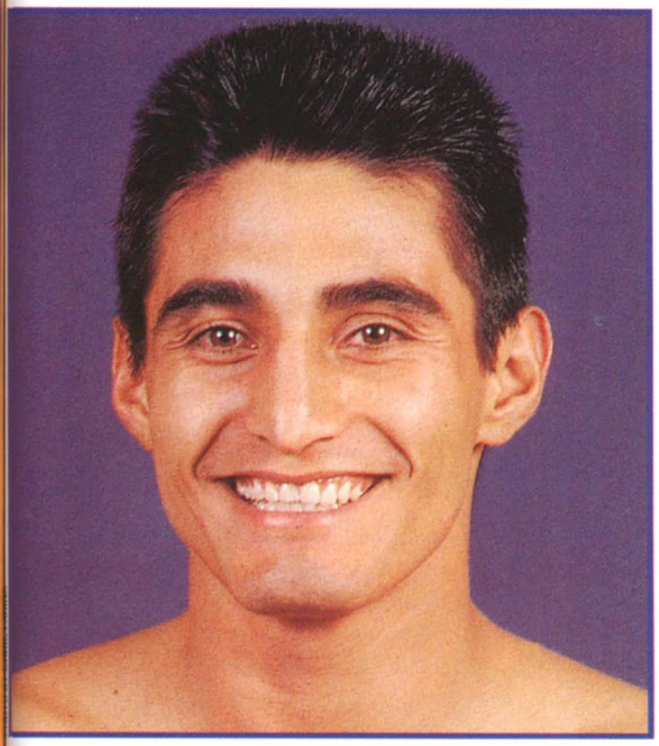


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

ERIK MORALES



Birthdate: September 1, 1976

Birthplace: Tijuana, Mexico

Residence: Tijuana, Mexico

Weight Class: Featherweight

Height: 5'8"

Reach: 72"

Professional Record: 41-0 (31)

World Titles: WBC super bantamweight (September 6, 1997-June 17, 2000), WBC featherweight (February 17, 2001-present)

Handlers: Fernando Beltran, manager; Jose Morales Damian/Miguel Diaz, co-trainers

Background: The son of a former fighter, was born on the first floor of the building that houses the second-story gym where he now trains. Began boxing at age six under the watchful eye of his father, Jose Morales Damian, who originally didn't want him to turn pro, but changed his mind after his son scored a second-round kayo in his March 1993 pro debut. Made his U.S. debut in July '95, and has since campaigned on both sides of the border. Won the WBC super bantam belt in September '97 and made nine successful defenses, including a controversial decision over Marco Antonio Barrera in February '00 in a savage, see-saw battle that was named Fight of the Year. Moved up to featherweight later that year and defeated Guty Espadas via another controversial decision in February '01 to win WBC 126-pound title.

Style: Aggressive, standup boxer

Strengths: Combination punching, chin, poise under fire, willpower

Weaknesses: Tendency to tire, diminished power at higher weight

Best Performance: Stopped great old warrior Daniel Zaragoza in the 11th round of a dramatic struggle to earn the WBC 122-pound title just five days after his 21st birthday.

Worst Performance: After building an early lead, faded badly down the stretch against WBC feather champ Guty Espadas, nearly coming apart in the 12th round before holding on to win a debatable decision.

Future: Appears headed toward an early-2002 rematch with Barrera, but for the first time in his career, will be the underdog.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A-
Power	B+
Defense	B
Ring Generalship	B+
Experience	A
Quality of Opposition	A
Chin	A
Stamina	B+
Overall Grade	B+

ERIK MORALES' 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Youth prevails as Morales dethrones Zaragoza

1 KO 11 Daniel Zaragoza, September 6, 1997, El Paso, Texas

Normally, a young fighter beating an opponent three months shy of his 40th birthday is nothing to get excited about. But Zaragoza wasn't just any old 39-year-old pug. He was a legendary four-time world champion riding a four-year, 13-fight unbeaten streak. And although many thought the WBC super bantamweight champ was ready to be overthrown when he stepped into the ring with the 21-year-old Morales, it must be pointed out that they thought the same thing before Zaragoza turned away Wayne McCullough and Joichiro Tatsuyoshi in his previous two fights.

The ageless Zaragoza started well, using his awkward style and looping punches to bewilder the notoriously slow-starting Morales. In the fourth, Zaragoza hurt Morales with a left hand, and it looked like the old Mexican marvel might turn away yet another young hopeful. But just as Zaragoza was no ordinary aging champ, Morales was no ordinary challenger, and he rallied late in the round with a determined flurry.

After Zaragoza had another good round in the fifth, it was all Morales the rest of the way. His body attack began to sap the older man of his strength, and "El Terrible" nearly took Zaragoza out in the eighth. The game champion finally hit the canvas in the 10th from a right hand to the body, and in the 11th, a right to the solar plexus put him down for good at 2:59 of the round. Finally, the old Mexican warrior had been dethroned, the torch passed to his country's next emerging star.

Jones takes a tumble in Tijuana

2 KO 4 Junior Jones, September 12, 1998, Tijuana, Mexico

Morales' first three defenses of the 122-pound title came against challengers who would be honored if you called them second-rate. Limited Irishman John Lowey was stopped in eight rounds, virtual unknown Remigio Molina was blown out in six, and badly faded ex-champ Jose Luis Bueno lasted only two. But for his fourth defense, Morales took a big step up and faced a fighter who just a year earlier was considered the best junior feather in the world and was on everybody's pound-for-pound list.

The 27-year-old Jones was coming off a knockout loss to Kennedy McKinney in his previous fight, but he was dominating that fight until McKinney caught him in the fourth round, and before that he defeated Marco Antonio Barrera in back-to-back affairs. As long as the fourth round of the McKinney fight wasn't the real Jones, Morales was taking a major chance risking his title against the man they call "Poison."

Indeed, in the first two rounds, Jones showed he still had something left, as he moved well and flashed good jabs and sharp right hands. But Morales started going to the body in round three, and Jones immediately began to fade. Three short, clubbing right hands put Jones down late in the fourth, and a followup assault convinced referee Larry O'Connell to stop the bout at 2:55 of the round. Morales took a chance by fighting Jones, and it paid off when he pulled off one of the most impressive knockouts of his career.

3 W 12 Wayne McCullough, October 23, 1999, Detroit, Michigan

Ultra-tough Irishman McCullough has always been a top-notch fighter, but he has all sorts of limitations, and as a result, there are quite a few ways to beat him. The first time he lost, against Daniel Zaragoza, he was outsmarted and outhustled. In his second loss, against Naseem Hamed, "The Prince" exploited McCullough's lack of speed as he boxed and ran to victory. But when Morales beat McCullough in the show-stealing semifinal to Hamed's bout with Cesar Soto, El Terrible bested McCullough in the most manly way possible: by standing in front of him all night and outslugging "The Pocket Rocket."

For 12 rounds, the two 122-pound warriors went toe-to-toe, both soaking up the best the other had to offer. The problem for McCullough was that Morales just had too much in his arsenal, landing with every powerpunch imaginable and keeping pace with the tireless challenger from the first bell until the last. McCullough's iron chin made him the first challenger to go the distance with Morales, but the Mexican won convincingly, by unanimous scores of 118-110.

"Wayne has a huge heart," Morales said afterward. "He put up a great fight. But I am always a warrior."

4 W 12 Marco Antonio Barrera, February 19, 2000, Las Vegas, Nevada

Right off the bat, it must be acknowledged that the Barrera fight should read "L 12" and not "W 12" for Morales. Though El Terrible got a

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

McCullough takes one on the chin

split decision by scores of 114-113, 115-112, and 113-114, nearly everyone agrees that Barrera deserved to win. The thing is, he only deserved to win by a slight margin, probably just a point or two. And considering how great we all now recognize Barrera to be in light of his domination of Naseem Hamed in April '01, keeping within a point or two of Barrera—in the Fight of the Year, no less—is a damned fine achievement that supports Morales' claims to excellence nearly as well as any of his controversy-free wins.

For 12 ferocious rounds, the Mexican rivals went to war, receiving a wild ovation from the crowd at Mandalay Bay at the end of virtually every round. Morales got off to a slow start, but then rallied in the third and fourth rounds. He was having a huge fifth round until, suddenly, Barrera nearly floored him with a left hook. But Morales refused to go down, and the two battled violently the rest of the way. Despite suffering a debatable 12th-round knockdown, Morales came away with the win. But more importantly, he came away with the pride of knowing he played a starring role in an unforgettable battle.

Chacon becomes a memorable knockout victim

5 KO 9 Juan Carlos Ramirez, May 8, 1999, Las Vegas

In the last two years or so, Morales hasn't had many easy fights. But it wasn't always that way. There was a time when El Terrible was looking absolutely dominant in his title defenses, his combination of skill and power overwhelming every 122-pounder who crossed his path. Perhaps the best example of that was his fight against Ramirez, a tough, young Mexican who had nearly upset Luisito Espinosa for the WBC featherweight title nine months earlier. On this night, Morales was at his dominating best.

Morales' booming right hand accounted for a knockdown in the second round and two more in the third, but the game "Ranchero" kept trying. He seemed in the middle rounds to reach the point where he could soak up Morales' power without going down, but Morales broke through again in the ninth with a 12-punch combination that put Ramirez on the canvas once more. Referee Jay Nady halted the action between rounds, determining that the brave challenger was taking too much of a beating. The scorecards supported Nady's decision, as Morales led after nine completed rounds by lopsided scores of 90-76, 90-77, and 89-78.

6 KO 2 Angel Chacon, February 13, 1999, Las Vegas

Everybody loves highlight-reel knockouts, and Morales has never had a more beautiful one than the kayo he scored against Chacon on the Oscar De La Hoya-Ike Quartey undercard. With one perfectly placed right hand, Morales turned the Puerto Rican challenger into a 122-pound wet noodle and proved beyond any doubt that his power was for real.

In the first round, Chacon circled away from that right hand, fully aware of its "Terrible" capabilities. But in the second, Morales trapped him on the ropes for a moment, and a moment was all he needed. The champ feinted a right to the body, and when Chacon dropped his hands, came up with a vicious right to the chin that sent the challenger's lifeless body partway through the ropes. The knockout was so emphatic, referee Richard Steele didn't even bother to start counting before waving the fight off at the 1:50 mark.

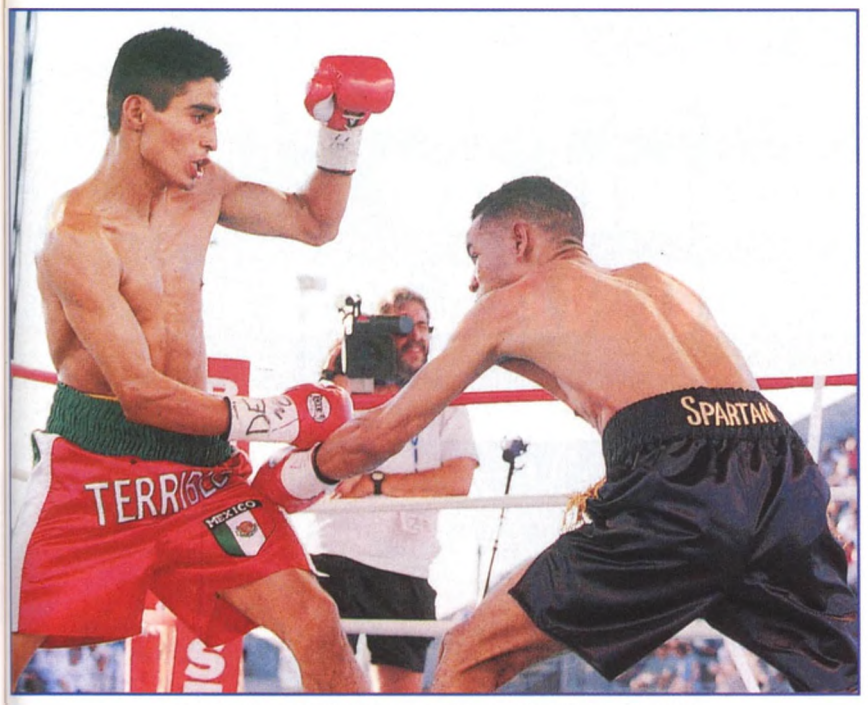
7 W 12 Hector Acero-Sanchez, June 7, 1996, Las Vegas

Before most hot prospects get their shot at a world title, they usually have to pass an important test against a faded ex-champion. This was that test for Morales, as Acero-Sanchez was the first (and only) world titlist he faced before challenging Daniel Zaragoza for the WBC title. But as faded ex-champions go, the Dominican veteran wasn't all that far from his prime, having just surrendered the WBC super bantam title to Zaragoza seven months earlier.

It was impressive, therefore, that Morales won so comfortably, taking a unanimous decision by scores of 118-110 (twice) and 118-111. Still, the young Mexican wasn't fully satisfied with the win, which moved his record to 23-0 and was one of the featured attractions on the undercard of Oscar De La Hoya-Julio Cesar Chavez I.

"The fight was very complicated because I couldn't figure him out," Morales said. "I will try to prepare myself better for these type of fights. I hope I can get a chance to fight for a world title."

Four fights later, he would.



Morales flashes his defensive skills against Acero-Sanchez

8 KO 6 Reynante Jamili, July 31, 1999, Tijuana

Like the win over Juan Carlos Ramirez, this was a showcase title defense in which Morales headlined a pay-per-view against a good-but-not-great opponent and looked like arguably the most perfect prize fighter in the world. Starting in his next fight, against Wayne McCullough, Morales would start looking human again, but on this night, in front of 10,000 rabid fans at a bull ring in Tijuana, he was a destructive, near-flawless machine.

Jamili was made to order, plodding forward and leaving himself open to counters. Morales took those openings and hammered the Filipino challenger with crosses and uppercuts. By the fourth round, Jamili wasn't coming forward much anymore. Just as the crowd was showing the first signs of restlessness waiting for the knockout, Morales delivered in the sixth, depositing Jamili along the ropes with a huge overhand right. He beat the count, but referee Marty Denkin wisely waved the fight off at 3:00 of the round.

9 KO 6 Enrique Jupiter, April 21, 1995, Tijuana

Before the major test against Hector Acero-Sanchez came an important step up against countryman Jupiter, who was rated fifth by the WBC at the time. Jupiter, the Mexican junior feather champ, was on a three-year winning streak, and much of the Mexican press was predicting defeat for the 14-0 Morales. Even Morales' manager, Fernando Beltran, was unsure about his man's chances.

"We sincerely felt Erik was not ready to take on this tough an opponent so early in his career," Beltran said afterward. "The only reason we went through with it was because Erik insisted. He wanted to know if he had what it takes to be champion of the world."

As we all know now, he did. And with those championship-caliber abilities, he impressively knocked out Jupiter in the sixth round before a packed house at Tijuana's Municipal Auditorium to earn the Mexican title.

10 W 12 In Jin Chi, July 28, 2001, Los Angeles, California

Morales' featherweight campaign, thus far, has not been covered in glory. In his first four fights at 126 pounds, he beat up on hapless Mike Juarez and Rodney Jones, handled washed-up Kevin Kelley, and looked terribly lethargic en route to eking out a disputed win over Guty Espadas. And in his fifth fight, his first defense of the WBC feather title, he failed once again to dazzle. But El Terrible did show guts and improved stamina in holding off the challenge of the game Korean Chi.

Unfortunately, Morales also showed that the awesome punch he packed at 122 pounds doesn't seem to have come along for the ride to featherweight. Still, he pounded on Chi effectively, battled through a grotesquely gashed eyelid caused by a sixth-round clash of heads, and finished strong, winning the last two rounds to clinch the victory by scores of 116-111, 117-110, and 116-112. It wasn't Morales at his absolute best. But it was the best he's looked so far as a featherweight against an opponent who came to fight.

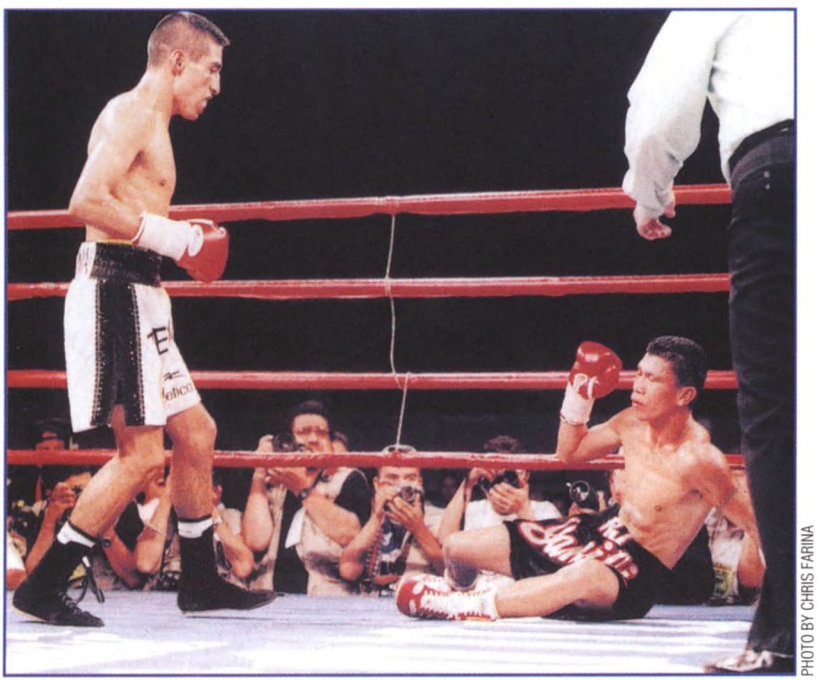


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

"El Terrible" finishes Jamili in the sixth

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF ERIK MORALES

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Concepcion Velazquez tries to cover up

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN

Morales bombs out Jose Luis Bueno in two rounds

1993

March 29	Jose Orejel, Tijuana	KO 2
May 7	Jaime Rodriguez, Tijuana	KO 2
May 25	Oscar Maldonado, Tijuana	KO 3
July 8	Marco Tovar, Tijuana	KO 1
July 26	Jose Alvarez, Tijuana	W 6
Oct. 22	Jamie Abrica, Tijuana	KO 2
Dec. 6	Alfonso Mota, Tijuana	KO 2

1994

Jan. 21	Paul Olivera, Tijuana	KO 3
March 26	Isidro Nolasco, Mexico City	W 8
Aug. 22	Julio Cardona, Tijuana	KO 2
Oct. 17	Idelfonso Bernal, Tijuana	KO 3
Nov. 28	Ramon Magana, Tijuana	KO 3
Dec. 19	Jose Valdez, Tijuana	KO 3

1995

Feb. 3	Ricky Hernandez, Tijuana	KO 1
April 21	Enrique Jupiter, Tijuana	KO 6
June 2	Armando Castro, Tijuana	KO 10
July 14	Juan Torres, Las Vegas	W 12
Sept. 9	Alberto Martinez, Las Vegas	KO 4
Nov. 10	Enrique Angeles, Tijuana	W 12
Dec. 18	Kenny Mitchell, Tijuana	KO 2

1996

Feb. 25	Rudy Bradley, Las Vegas	KO 11
April 22	Lee Cargle, Tijuana	KO 2
June 7	Hector Acero-Sanchez, Las Vegas	W 12
Oct. 12	Pedro Torres, Anaheim, CA	KO 2
Nov. 29	Robby Lovato, Tijuana	W 10

1997

April 4	Concepcion Velazquez, Las Vegas	KO 8
Sept. 6	Daniel Zaragoza, El Paso, TX *(Wins WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 11
Dec. 12	John Lowey, Tijuana *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 8

1998

April 3	Remigio Molina, Tijuana *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 6
May 16	Jose Luis Bueno, Indio, CA *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 2
Sept. 12	Junior Jones, Tijuana *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 4

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

A classic exchange from 2000's Fight of the Year

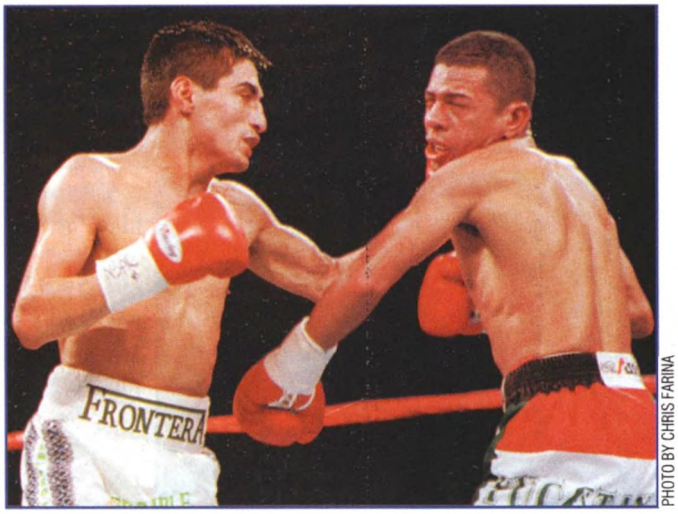


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Guty Espadas eats a left hook

1999

Feb. 13	Angel Chacon, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 2
May 8	Juan Carlos Ramirez, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 9
July 31	Reynante Jamili, Tijuana *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	KO 6
Oct. 23	Wayne McCullough, Detroit *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	W 12

2000

Feb. 19	Marco Antonio Barrera, Las Vegas *(Retains WBC Super Bantamweight Title)*	W 12
June 17	Mike Juarez, Los Angeles	KO 3
Sept. 2	Kevin Kelley, El Paso	KO 7
Dec. 9	Rodney Jones, Tijuana	KO 1

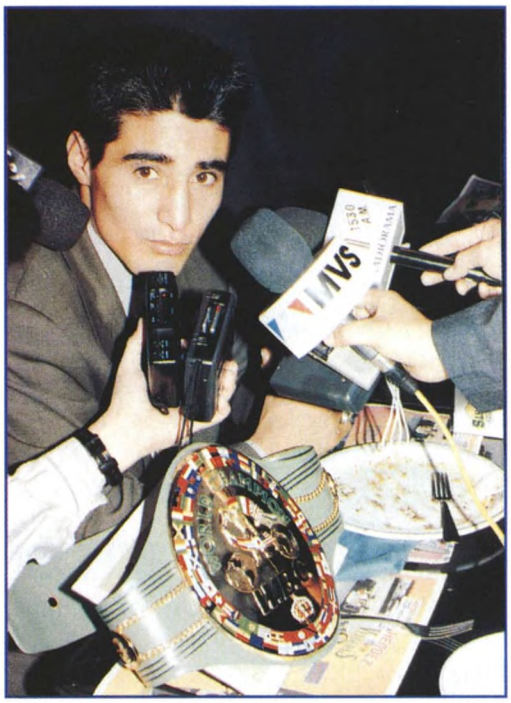
2001

Feb. 17	Guty Espadas, Las Vegas *(Wins WBC Featherweight Title)*	W 12
July 28	In Jin Chi, Los Angeles *(Retains WBC Featherweight Title)*	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
41	41	0	0	31

Morales made quick work of Mike Juarez

MEMORABLE QUOTES



The microphones bear in on Morales

"His mother said to just let him go ahead and turn pro. She said he would get beat up, then he would go back to school."

—1997, Morales' father, Jose Morales Damian, on he and his wife's reluctance to let Erik become a pro fighter

"It was an absolute dream come true. I not only won the world title, but beat a great champion in Zaragoza."

—1997, Morales on winning the WBC super bantamweight title

"Morales is slow and he gets hit easy. He's not durable, and you can hurt him very quickly. I don't think he hits that hard. When I fought him, it was more a case of me losing steam and my focus than anything he did."

—1998, Junior Jones assessing Morales' abilities

"They would not touch his car if the windows were rolled down and the keys were in it."

—1999, manager Fernando Beltran on the respect Morales receives in his notoriously crime-ridden hometown

"By the time he's done, they may be looking for the next Morales."

—1999, William Dettloff in KO *regarding the possibility that Morales could be the next Julio Cesar Chavez*

"If I had to take my own punch, I say, 'No thank you.'"

—1999, Morales commenting on his power

"Sometimes they say, 'the brother of Erik Morales,' instead of just calling him Diego Morales. That's very tough.'"

—1999, Morales on how difficult it is for his younger brother to escape his shadow

"He was the biggest puncher I ever faced in the ring. I expected a tough fight, and I got one."

—2000, Morales after his controversial win over Marco Antonio Barrera

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Morales expected a tough fight, and got one from Barrera

"Erik is a tremendous puncher, but his career could really be shortened if he continues to be an easy target to hit."

—2000, promoter Bob Arum on Morales' need to improve his defense

"Obviously, here, you're not going to win a decision against him."

—2001, Guty Espadas after losing to Morales via controversial decision in Las Vegas ■

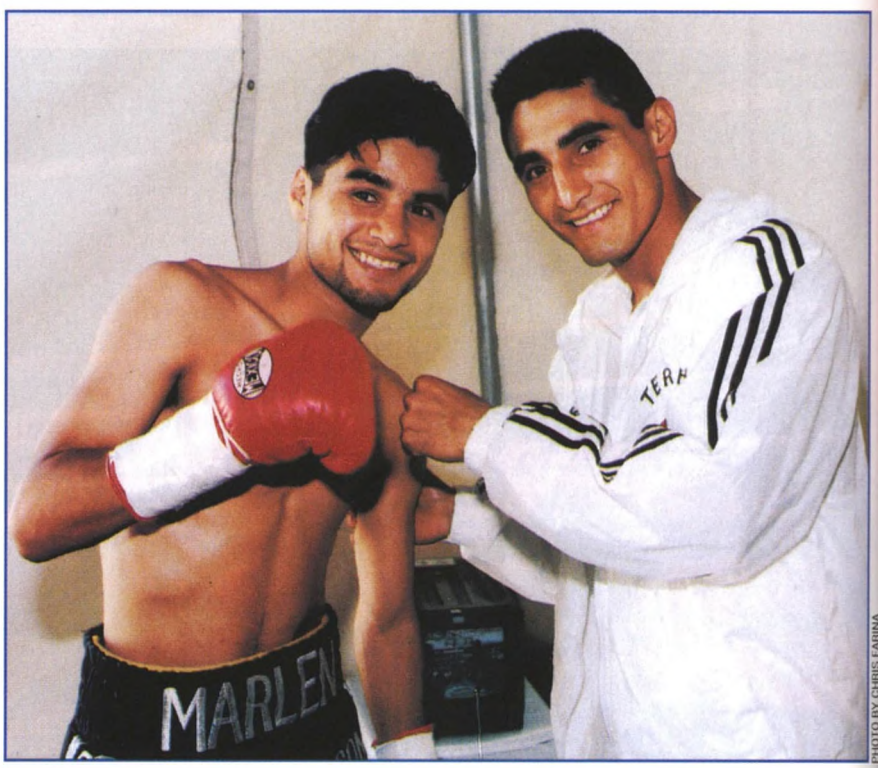


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Brother Diego has big shoes to fill

TITLE
BOXING
1-800-999-1213

For all your equipment.

Call 1-800-999-1213 for a free catalog
or visit our website at www.titleboxing.com

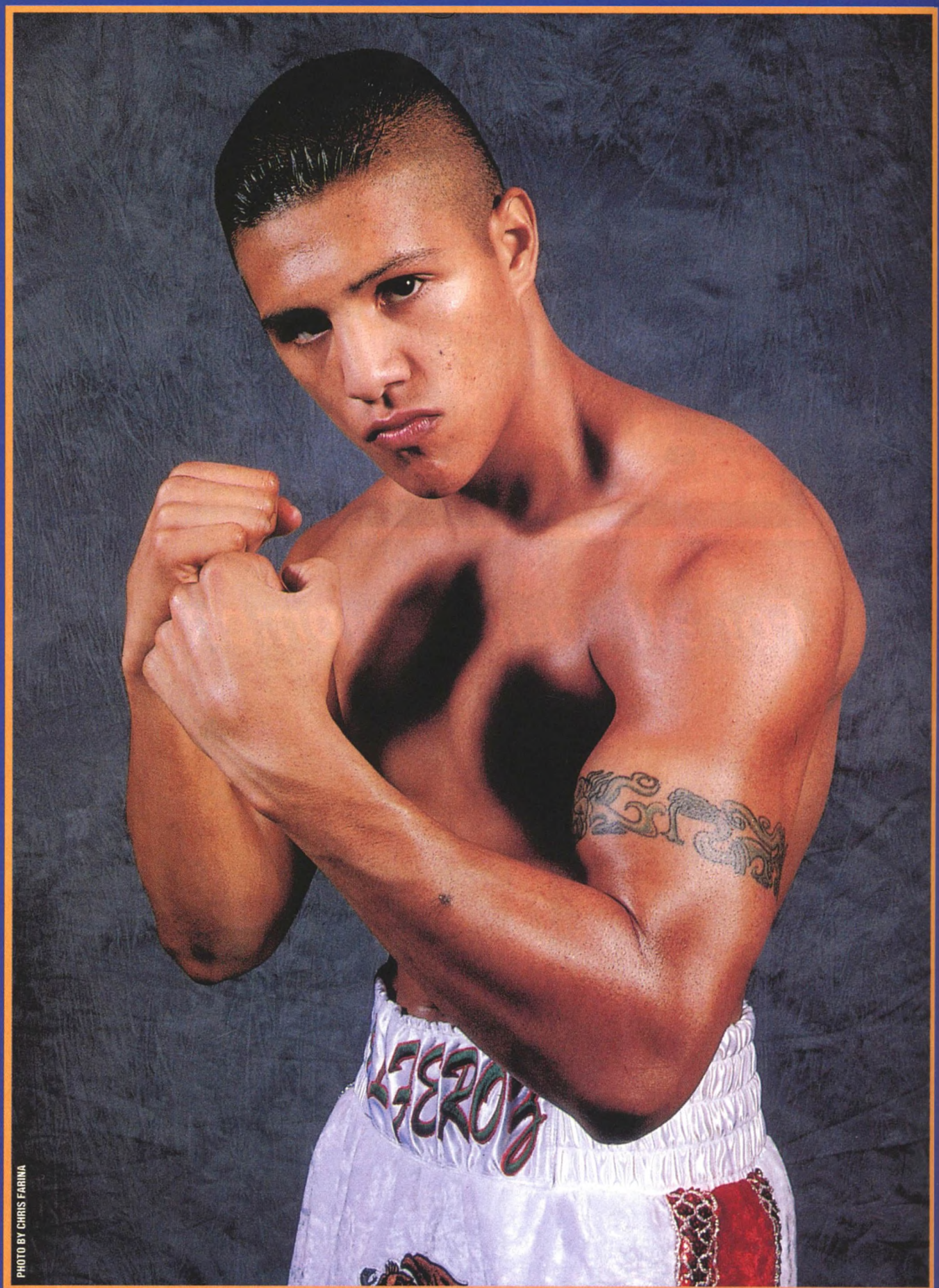


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

FERNANDO VARGAS

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Birthdate: December 7, 1977

Birthplace: Oxnard, California

Residence: Oxnard, California

Weight Class: Junior Middleweight

Height: 5'10"

Reach: 74"

Professional Record: 21-1 (19)

World Title: IBF junior middleweight (December 12, 1998-December 2, 2000)

Handlers: Eduardo Garcia, trainer; Shelly Finkel, Rolando Arellano, co-managers

Background: Started boxing at age 10 and compiled a stellar 100-5 amateur record. After a disappointing second-round defeat at the '96 Olympics in Atlanta, turned pro in March '97. In just his 15th pro fight, defeated Yory Boy Campas via seventh-round stoppage in December '98 to claim the IBF 154-pound title, and made five successful defenses over the next two years. Lost title via 12th-round knockout in a thrilling unification bout with WBA titlist Felix Trinidad in December '00. Returned to the ring with an up-from-the-floor kayo of Wilfredo Rivera in May '01.

Style: Offensive-minded boxer-puncher

Strengths: Determination, punching accuracy, finishing ability, bodypunching, heart

Weaknesses: Defensive lapses, questionable chin, modest hand speed, outside-the-ring troubles

Best Performance: Outboxed formidable Ike Quartey in April '00, scoring a unanimous decision and handing the African his first clear-cut defeat.

Worst Performance: Looked listless at times and needed a late rally to eke out a majority decision over Winky Wright in December '99.

Future: Solid favorite to capture vacant WBA 154-pound title just after this magazine's press deadline. Hoping to then land a big-money grudge match with WBC champ Oscar De La Hoya.

REPORT CARD:	
Boxing Ability	A-
Power	B+
Defense	B
Ring Generalship	A-
Experience	B
Quality of Opposition	A-
Chin	B
Stamina	B+
Overall Grade	B+

FERNANDO VARGAS' 10 GREATEST FIGHTS

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Vargas smacks Quartey with a right

1 W 12 Ike Quartey, April 15, 2000, Las Vegas, Nevada

Vargas hates to miss an opportunity to one-up Oscar De La Hoya. After seeing his arch-rival struggle to controversially outpoint Quartey in February '99, Vargas began calling for a bout with the heavy-handed Ghanaian, a bout that "Ferocious Fernando" believed could prove his superiority over De La Hoya. Fourteen months later, Vargas got his wish, and he backed up his boasts by waging what he termed an "intelligent war" to near perfection.

Quartey, whom many had believed had the best jab in the business, was outjabbed from the start by Vargas. The IBF champion had a huge round in the sixth, hurting Quartey with a right uppercut and landing 50 punches, according to CompuBox. "Bazooka" came back to bloody Vargas' nose and knock his mouthpiece out in the ninth, but Vargas carried the last two rounds to lock up a unanimous decision by scores of 116-111 (twice) and 114-113.

"Obviously, my fight wasn't close with him, and De La Hoya's was," Vargas noted afterward. Not a bad night's work for the 22-year-old Vargas, scoring a win over Quartey, and showing up De La Hoya at the same time.

2 KO 7 Yory Boy Campas, December 12, 1998, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Too much, too soon, they warned. Man against boy, they cautioned. But Vargas didn't care what they said. With just 14 fights under his belt—all knockout victories—Vargas, who turned 21 five days earlier, said he was ready for IBF junior middleweight champion Campas, a veteran of 74 fights over the course of 11 years of pro fighting.

Vargas, who would go on to make a habit of facing challenges some experts thought premature, turned out to be right

in this case. He was ready for Campas, and he used his youth, quickness, and boxing skill to dominate the weathered champion. Vargas repeatedly flashed one-twos for which Campas had no answer, and escaped with ease every time the Mexican tried to pin him on the ropes. With a broken nose and a bloody right eye, Campas thought about quitting after the sixth round, but his corner implored him to soldier on. So Vargas bombarded him in the seventh, battering him with clean right hands. When the bell sounded, Campas waved his glove in the air. He'd had enough. And on a cold winter's night at the Trump Taj Mahal, Vargas went from boy to man, and from contender to champion.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

Defense-impaired Campas absorbs a jab

3 KO by 12 Felix Trinidad, December 2, 2000, Las Vegas

For Vargas, his superfight against the awesome Trinidad got off to a horrible start, and ended even more dreadfully. But in between the first and 12th rounds, Vargas fought on even terms with arguably the best fighter around, and showed the warrior's heart that has helped make him one of the most popular fighters in the world.

Just 20 seconds into the fight, Trinidad hurt Vargas with a left hook, and the Californian barely made it through the round after surviving two knockdowns. But, fighting in a partial fog, Vargas willed his way back into the fight, knocking "Tito" down in the fourth and bravely slugging it out with the undefeated Puerto Rican until Trinidad's hook felled him again early in the 12th. Vargas rose, got dropped again, rose again, and got dropped once more before the battle was finally halted. Ultimately, Vargas suffered his first career defeat, but at the same time earned immeasurable respect for his valiant role in one of the most dramatic major fights seen in years.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Ellis walks into a counter right hand

4 KO 11 Raul Marquez, July 17, 1999, Lake Tahoe, Nevada

The buildup to this grudge match was more memorable than the fight itself. Marquez, a close friend of Oscar De La Hoya's, presented Vargas with a "Golden Boy" T-shirt, and Vargas threw it back at him and told him he'd need it to wipe the blood from his mouth. Marquez then taunted Vargas at the weigh-in, and "El Feroz" responded by shoving the Texan. All told, the prefight posturing was very entertaining and competitive.

The fight, on the other hand, was completely one-sided, as Vargas put on an almost perfect display against the fading former IBF 154-pound titlist. Several powershots from Vargas in the first round left Marquez slightly bloody and decidedly cautious, as "El Diamante" spent most of the remaining rounds backpedaling and concentrating on defense. Vargas, meanwhile, was all offense, winning every round before finishing the job in the 11th. A quick right-left wobbled Marquez, and Vargas pummeled him from one side of the ring to another until the fight was stopped at the 2:00 mark.

5 KO 2 Romallis Ellis, April 14, 1998, Ledyard, Connecticut

Coming into the Ellis fight, Vargas was, to the average boxing fan, just another Olympian with a glossy record and not a whole lot of TV exposure to prove he was anything special. But when he

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Vargas overcame a ghastly cut to beat Maciunski

crushed respected veteran Ellis (himself an Olympian in '88) in front of a sizable audience tuned in to USA Network to see the controversial Andrew Golota in the main event, he instantly became one of the hottest young properties in the game. It wasn't just the fact that he won; Vargas was expected to do that. But the *way* he won, obliterating Ellis in less than five minutes of action, marked the 20-year-old from Oxnard as a fighter to watch.

Vargas controlled the first round with ease, countering the southpaw Ellis' offerings effectively and scoring with both hands to the body. In the second, Vargas exploded with a huge right-left combination to the chin, and Ellis froze in the corner, just about out on his feet. Vargas rushed in and battered Ellis with straight lefts and rights, scoring with one powershot after another until referee Matt Mullaly had no choice but to save the slumped-over Ellis at the 1:56 mark.

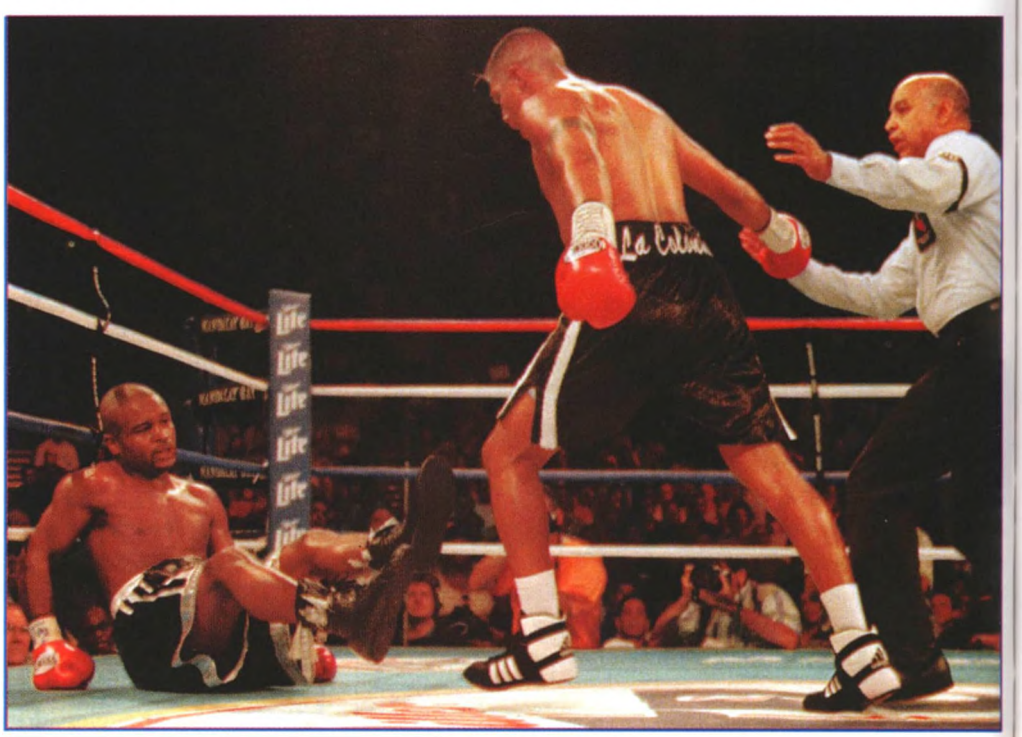
6 KO 6 Darren Maciunski, August 22, 1998, Atlantic City

In the days before *KO Nation* came along, not just any old Olympian got to fight on HBO without proving himself a little first. In the case of the '96 team, David Reid made his pro debut on HBO because he had captured American boxing's only gold medal in Atlanta, but everybody else had to wait their turn. For Vargas, that turn came in his 14th pro fight, in the co-feature to what would turn out to be the Fight of the Year between Ivan Robinson and Arturo Gatti. And his performance against tough, awkward club-fighter Maciunski was impressive enough to get him right back on HBO for his next fight—challenging for a world title, no less.

In the first two rounds, Vargas seemed to have it all going his way, scoring flash knockdowns in both rounds with perfectly timed counter right hands. But late in the fourth, a clash of heads left Vargas with a nasty gash above his right eye, and referee James Condon mistakenly ruled that the cut came from a punch. But Vargas showed resolve, and late in the sixth, he hurt Maciunski and unloaded along the ropes, snapping his head back and prompting Condon to halt the bout with just three seconds to go in the round. To some, including Maciunski, the stoppage was premature. To the folks at HBO, though, they'd seen what they needed to see.

7 KO 6 Wilfredo Rivera, May 5, 2001, El Paso, Texas

Some might consider this Vargas' worst performance, but those who do are forgetting who Rivera is. In his first fight back after the knockout loss to Trinidad, Vargas chose to jump right in with one of



Thompson gets thrashed

the most experienced, skilled contenders out there, a man who in his last major fight gave Shane Mosley the most bruising night of his career. And Vargas very nearly paid the price for not taking on a softy when Rivera dropped him with a counter right hand in round two.

But Vargas scrambled to his feet, gutted out the round, and gradually took over the fight. In the sixth, with Rivera bleeding and fading, a thudding left to the body dropped him to a knee, and his corner came to his rescue 39 seconds into the round with Vargas moving in for the finish. Ultimately, it took Vargas less rounds to stop Rivera than it had Mosley or Oscar De La Hoya. But along the way, he got a major scare that left everybody wondering just how recovered he was from the Trinidad war.

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Vargas threads the needle against Stephens

8 KO 2 Dan Connolly, March 13, 1998, Miami, Florida

There was nothing special about Vargas' opponent in his 10th pro fight, except that Connolly, a clubfighter with a 19-3 record, had lasted five rounds with David Reid on HBO four months earlier. And Vargas, as we all know, likes to show up his rivals. Though El Feroz considered Olympic teammate Reid his friend, he also considered him a competitor, and he certainly outshined "The American Dream" in a head-to-head comparison of their wins over Connolly.

About one second before the bell rang to end the first round, Vargas sent Connolly toppling into the ropes with a hard left hand. The undefeated Californian came out for round two looking to finish, and did so by freezing Connolly with a right hand and bombarding him along the ropes until referee Frank Santore intervened just 40 seconds into the round. Against Reid, the tough but overmatched Connolly made it into the fifth round; against Vargas, he didn't even make it into the fifth minute.

9 KO 4 Ross Thompson, August 26, 2000, Las Vegas

Those who follow boxing know that being a mandatory challenger doesn't mean much. It usually says more about your connections than your ability, and everybody knew that Thompson, who had three losses and a draw in 28 pro fights, hadn't dazzled the IBF ratings committee with his ability. But he was their number-one guy nonetheless, and he was Vargas' last hurdle on the road to Felix Trinidad.

Thompson had two things going for him: his trash-talking, and his size. He had goaded Vargas into a physical prefight confrontation, so some thought he might be able to throw the hot-headed champ off his game come fight time. And he unofficially weighed in just before the fight as a 173-pound junior middleweight, meaning Vargas was giving away 10 pounds in the ring.

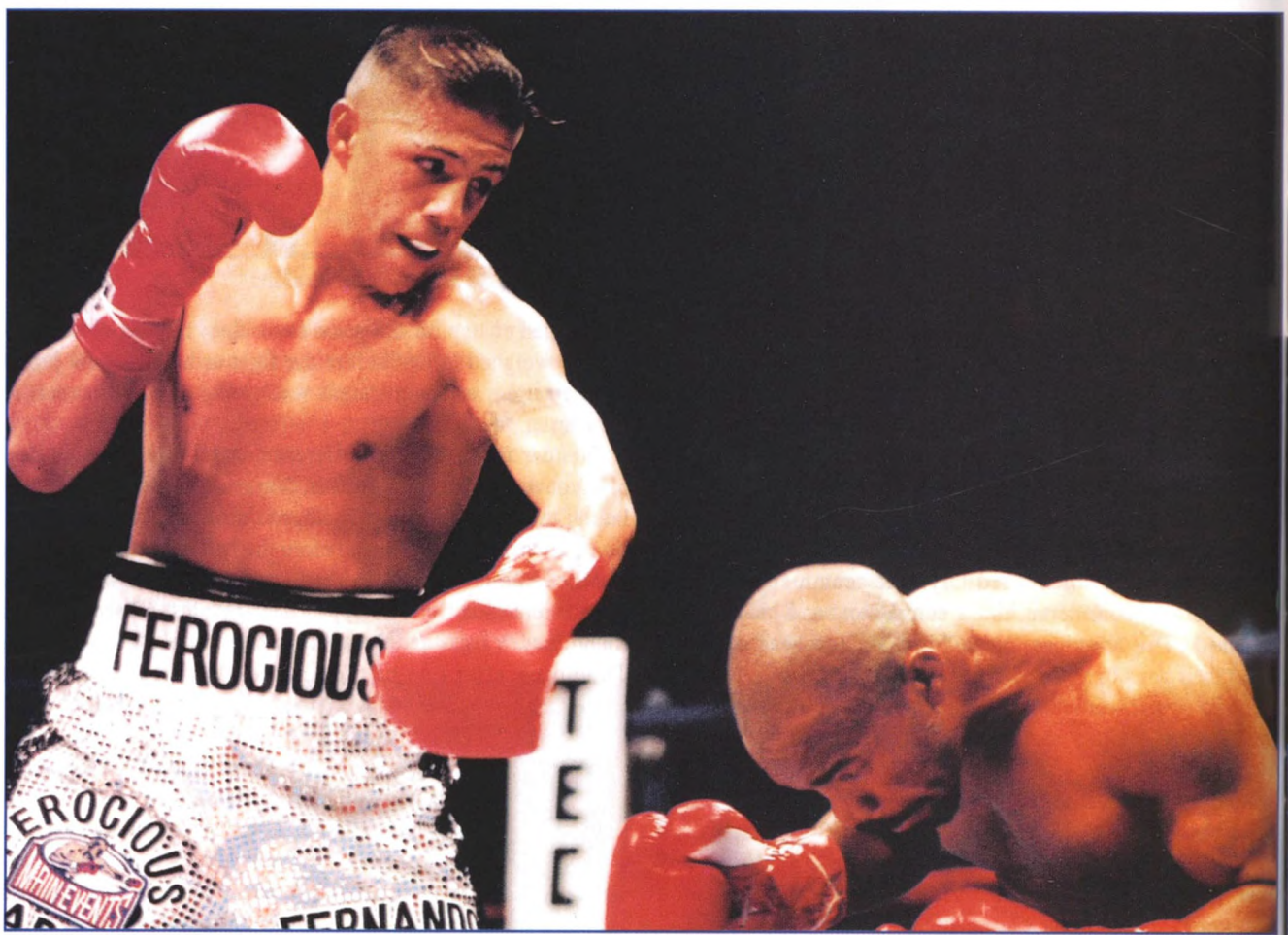
Neither factor made a difference. After struggling to find his groove the first two rounds, Vargas uncorked a left-right late in the third, knocking Thompson down. Another combination flattened him again just before the bell, and a straight right knocked him down early in the fourth. Nine unanswered shots later, referee Joe Cortez stopped the fight, just 67 seconds into round four. Vargas hadn't totally kept his cool—he did spit on Thompson after one of the knockdowns—but had kept it enough to get the job done in style.

10 KO 5 Anthony Stephens, June 23, 1998, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Like the Rivera fight, Vargas actually did worse than expected against world-class veteran Stephens, but when you've only had 22 fights, a few less-than-exemplary performances are going to crack your top 10. On the heels of the wins over Connolly and Ellis, Vargas was looking to bowl over Stephens with similar ease. It almost happened when Vargas staggered "The Warrior" with a right hand in round two, but he couldn't put Stephens away, and the fight started getting difficult as the sweltering temperatures inside the Blue Horizon took a toll on both men.

Stephens began landing his right hand, and in the fourth, Vargas lost a round for the first time in his career when he repeatedly failed to time his opponent's rushes. He was continuing to struggle in the fifth, until a left hand to the belt line knocked the wind out of Stephens and put him down for the count. With one punch, Vargas turned a bad performance good, and showed the perseverance in the face of adversity that would become a trademark.

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF FERNANDO VARGAS



Vargas fires a left at Ron Johnson

1997		
March 25	Jorge Morales, Oxnard, CA	KO 1
April 26	Claude Staten, Atlantic City	KO 2
June 7	Bill Burden, Sacramento, CA	KO 2
June 20	Jim Maloney, Atlantic City	KO 1
July 12	Eugene Lopez, Lake Tahoe, NV	KO 1
August 19	Kevin Payne, Austin, TX	KO 1
October 4	Alex Quiroga, Atlantic City	KO 6
Nov. 22	Jose Fernandez, Atlantic City	KO 1
Dec. 13	Eduardo Martinez, Ledyard, CT	KO 2

Howard Clarke is offered a seat

Vargas laces into Alex Quiroga with the left

Vargas bears in on Raul Marquez

1998		
March 13	Dan Connolly, Miami, FL	KO 2
April 14	Romallis Ellis, Ledyard	KO 2
May 9	Ron Johnson, Sacramento, CA	KO 4
June 23	Anthony Stephens, Philadelphia, PA	KO 5
Aug. 22	Darren Maciunski, Atlantic City	KO 6
Dec. 12	Yory Boy Campas, Atlantic City	KO 7
	(Wins IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	

1999		
March 13	Howard Clarke, New York City	KO 4
	(Retains IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	
July 17	Raul Marquez, Lake Tahoe	KO 11
	(Retains IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	
Dec. 4	Winky Wright, Lincoln City, OR	W 12
	(Retains IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	

2000		
April 15	Ike Quartey, Las Vegas	W 12
	(Retains IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	
Aug. 26	Ross Thompson, Las Vegas	KO 4
	(Retains IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	
Dec. 2	Felix Trinidad, Las Vegas	KO by 12
	(Loses IBF Junior Middleweight Title)	

2001		
May 5	Wilfredo Rivera, El Paso, TX	KO 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
22	21	1	0	19

MEMORABLE QUOTES

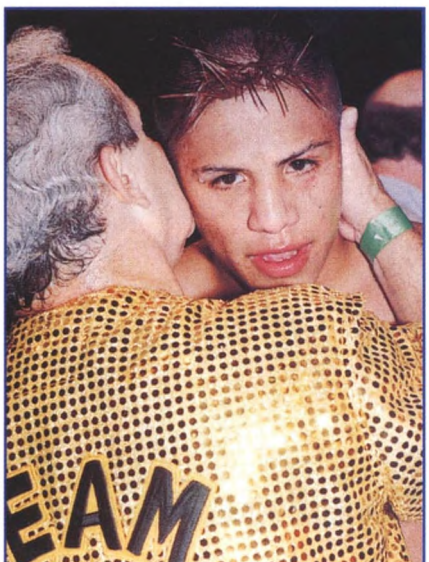


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Trainer Roger Bloodworth tells Vargas to comb his hair after the Stephens fight

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Vargas (and Fernando Jr.) feed the media some quotes

"I love to fight, and here was a way that I could do it without getting in trouble."

—1998, Vargas discussing the day he discovered amateur boxing

"Yeah, my hair got messed up, but, you know, I'll go back and comb it."

—1998, Vargas after his win over Anthony Stephens

PHOTO BY RUBEN R. RAMIREZ

What was Vargas thinking when Rivera put him down?

"He gets mad if you *don't* hit him."

—1998, Vargas on Yory Boy Campas' lack of defense

"Oscar is a fake—clean and simple. That's how I feel. I'm not going to hold back. I don't like him ... I will never be his friend. I will never shake his hand."

—1998, Vargas on De La Hoya

"I went there to see the fight of the millennium, not the track meet of the millennium."

—1999, Vargas after the Trinidad-De La Hoya fight

"Everyone knew I won that fight, even the Vargas camp. I ran into Mike Tyson, and he said, 'Yeah, Vargas is my boy, but you won the fight.'"

—2000, Winky Wright reflecting on his disputed decision loss to Vargas

"I remember being a kid looking at Julio Cesar Chavez, I was 13 or 14 years old, and used to say, 'One day, I want to be on the cover like Chavez.' And when I got a hold of that cover, I had chills and goosebumps all over my body."

—2000, Vargas on being featured alone on the cover of KO *for the first time*

"If you noticed, he don't fight like Carl Lewis."

—2000, Don King on why a fight with Vargas might be more attractive for Trinidad than a rematch with De La Hoya

"People have approached me about Tyson. They tell me he's a guy who's going to get me in trouble, but ... if I'm going to get into trouble, I can do it by myself."

—2001, Vargas on the dangers of being friends with Mike Tyson

"I thought, *S___, I better get up.*"

—2001, Vargas revealing what was going through his mind when Wilfredo Rivera knocked him down

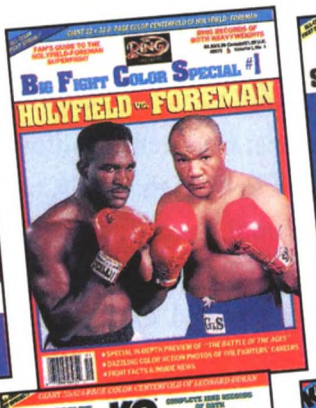
"He says he's running boxing; he ain't running s___ but his mouth."

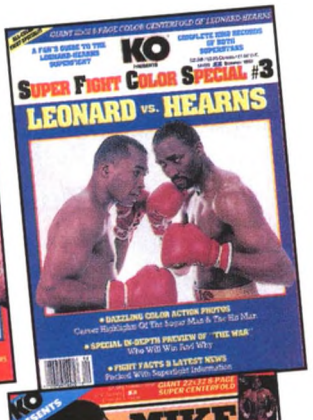
—2001, Vargas on De La Hoya's insistence that anyone who wants to fight him has to do so on his terms ■

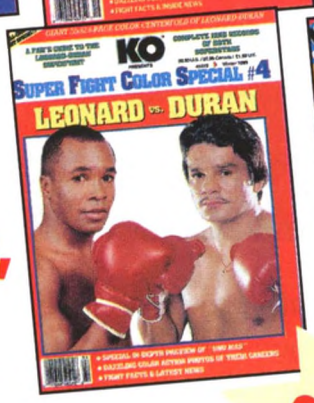
THE RING & KO PRESENT

GIANT-SIZED FOLDOUT SPECIALS

Includes. . .
A LIFE-SIZE 22" X 32" EIGHT-PAGE SUPER CENTERFOLD!







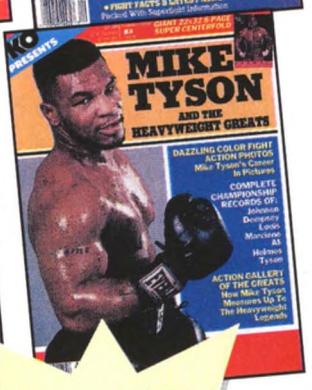


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Stories, Records, Fight Facts, Analyses, And More!

- TYSON vs. SPINKS
- HOLYFIELD vs. FOREMAN
- LEONARD vs. HEARNS II
- LEONARD vs. DURAN III
- MIKE TYSON & THE HEAVYWEIGHT GREATS

ONLY $5
$21.95
FOR ALL FIVE!

Send money order or make check payable to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

RING & KO PRESENT

Please send me the *Color Special* I've checked below. I am enclosing $5 for each one I'm ordering, or $21.95 for all five.

☐ Tyson vs. Spinks
☐ Holyfield vs. Foreman
☐ Leonard vs. Hearns II
☐ Leonard vs. Duran III
☐ Tyson & The Heavyweight Greats

Name _____

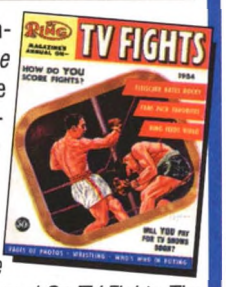
Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be delivered by surface mail, or $3 for every issue to be sent air mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5353/09-00

ATTENTION, COLLECTORS!



While taking inventory at *The Ring's* massive Pennsylvania warehouse, we came across an extremely limited supply of the 1954 edition of *The Ring Magazine's Annual On TV Fights.* The 100-page classic, featuring an E.R. Schaare illustration of Rocky Marciano in action on the cover, was edited by *The Ring's* legendary founder Nat Fleischer.

Highlights Include:

- Marciano In Action
- TV Talent
- Scoring Systems
- Famous TV Firsts
- Jack, Joe, Or Rocky?
- Fans' 20 Favorites
- Ring Belts
- Pay And Look
- Theater TV
- Meet The Champs
- Trainers
- Knockout Stats
- TV And Radio Commentators

THESE RARE PUBLICATIONS WILL MOVE FAST!

ORDER TODAY!

☐ Please send me *The Ring Magazine's Annual On TV Fights.* I am enclosing $25.00 per copy (postage included) as payment in full for each issue.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa#_____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature:_____

Please send to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

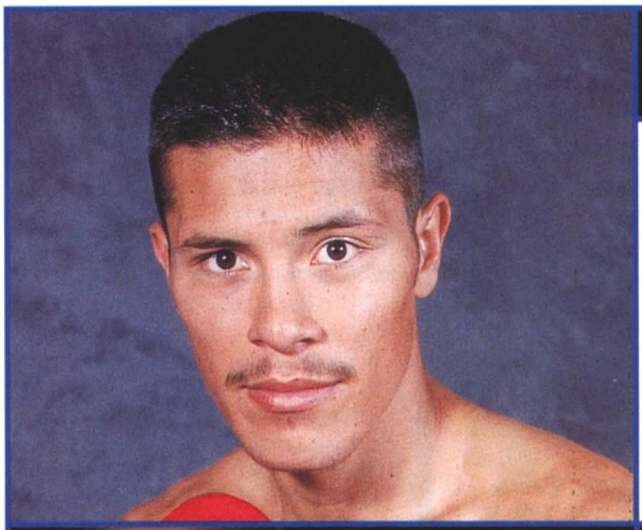
CITY_____

STATE_____ZIP_____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every copy to be delivered by surface mail or $2 for every copy to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5666/06-01/4c

THE GREATS



JULIO DIAZ

Birthdate: December 24, 1979
Residence: Coachella, California
Weight Class: Lightweight
Professional Record: 23-0 (18)
Why He'll Be A Star: Commitment to bodypunching, poise, hand speed, exciting style

FRANCISCO BOJADO

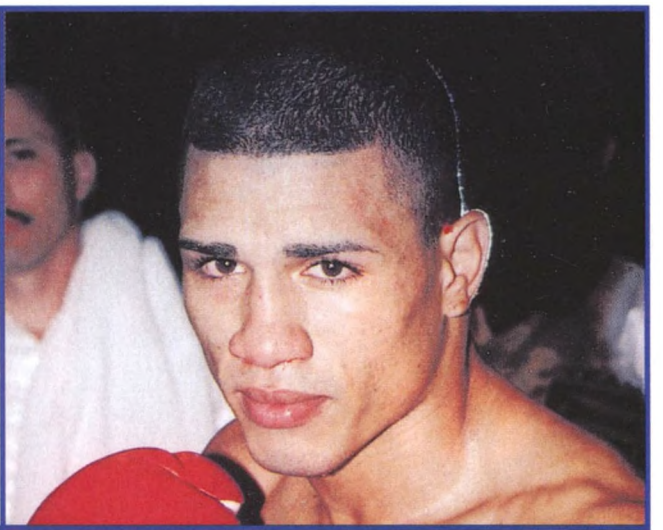
Birthdate: May 11, 1983
Residence: Commerce, California
Weight Class: Lightweight
Professional Record: 6-0 (6)
Why He'll Be A Star: Two-fisted knockout power, hand speed, youth, finishing instincts

RICARDO WILLIAMS JR.

Birthdate: June 25, 1981
Residence: Cincinnati, Ohio
Weight Class: Junior Welterweight
Professional Record: 4-0 (3) with 1 no-contest
Why He'll Be A Star: Hand speed, southpaw style, reflexes, bodypunching

OF TOMORROW

MIGUEL COTTO

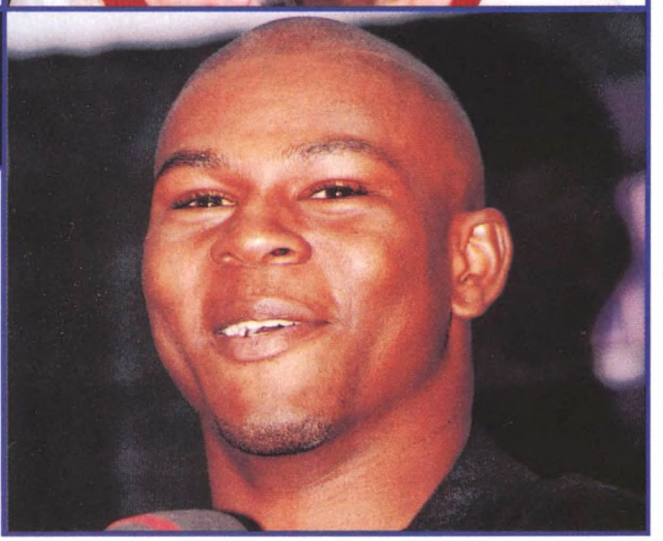


Birthdate: October 29, 1980
Residence: Caguas, Puerto Rico
Weight Class: Lightweight
Professional Record: 6-0 (4)
Why He'll Be A Star: Silky-smooth moves, powerful left hook, jab, tight defense

RICKY HATTON

Birthdate: October 6, 1978
Residence: Manchester, England
Weight Class: Junior Welterweight
Professional Record: 24-0 (19)
Why He'll Be A Star: Finishing skills, bodypunching, ability to fight through cuts, focus

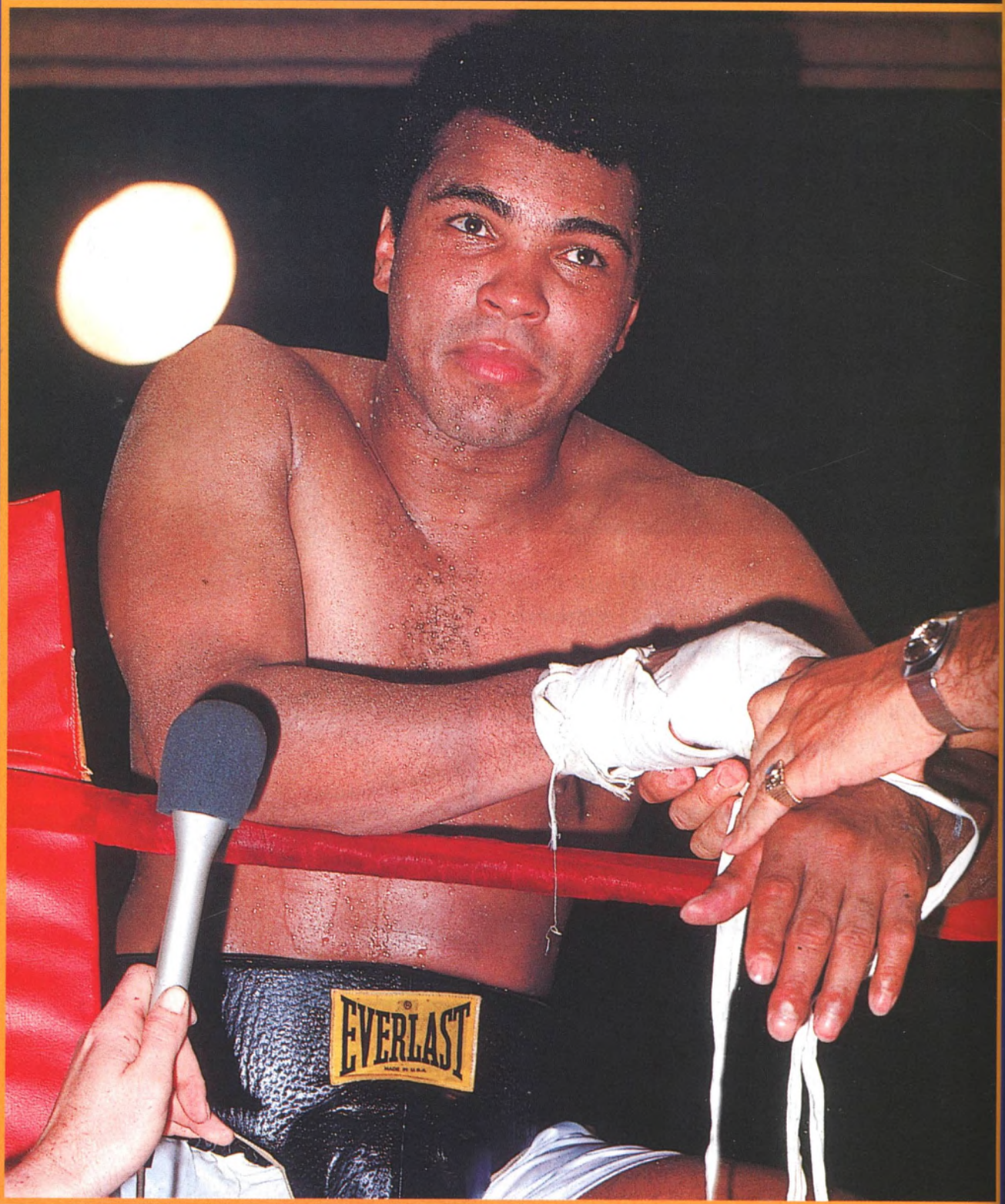
JERMAIN TAYLOR



Birthdate: August 11, 1978
Residence: Little Rock, Arkansas
Weight Class: Middleweight
Professional Record: 5-0 (3)
Why He'll Be A Star: Magnetic personality, hard jab, booming right hand, long reach

MUHAMMAD ALI

The Greatest



OUR SIXTH EDITION! UPDATED & REVISED!

The 2001 The RING® BOXING ALMANAC!

THIS DIGEST-SIZED CHUNK OF HISTORY HAS IT ALL!

196 PAGES OF REFERENCE MATERIAL EVERY BOXING FAN'S *GOTTA* HAVE!

- **Records and mini-profiles of boxing's world champions and star contenders**
- **A chronology of the top boxing news events of 2000**
- **A complete listing of all 2000 title fights**
- **Complete title lineages of all 17 weight divisions**
- **Hall of Fame listing**
- **The top 10 stories of 2000**
- **A complete listing of *The Ring* magazine awards, dating back to 1928**
- **All-time division ratings**
- **Statistics**
- **And much, much more!**

☑ YES! I would like to order my copy of the ***2001 Ring Almanac***. I have enclosed $7 in check or money order (postage included) as payment in full.

Send To:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name_____

Address_____Apt._____

City_____State_____Zip_____

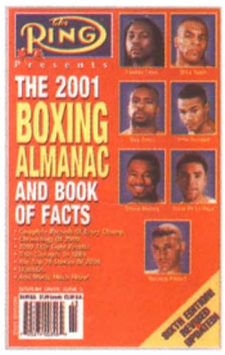
For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. International money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

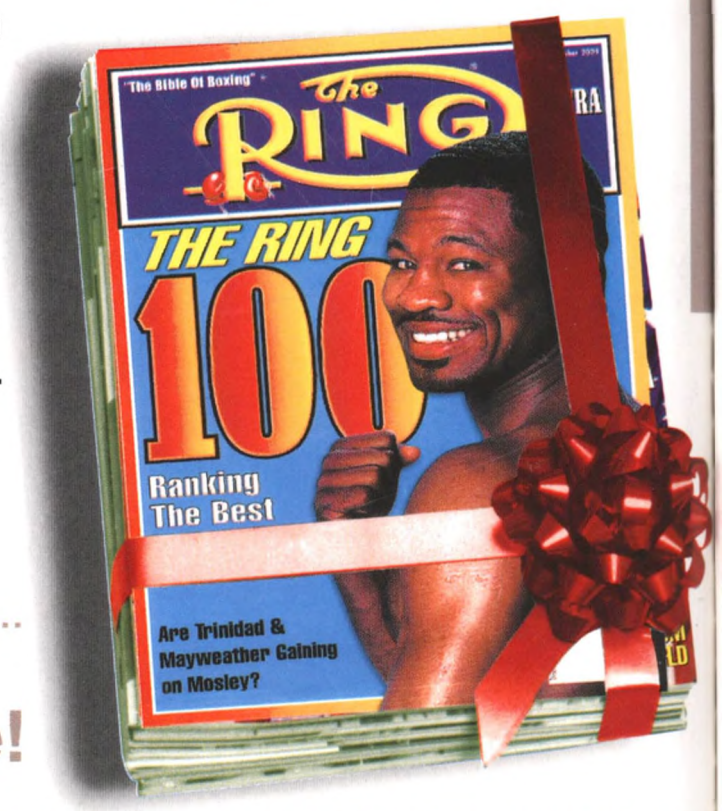
5449/12-00/4c

Give a Gift, Get a Gift!

They get a *Ring* sub ... you get *The Ring Almanac*—FREE!

There is no finer holiday present for the boxing fan you love most than a gift subscription to **The Ring.** It's the perfect way to bring holiday cheer to the special boxing fan in your life (even if that person is you!). Order today and we'll make sure that an attractive gift announcement is sent to the recipient of your gift. **PLUS ...** If you order a 12-issue subscription by December 31, 2001, we'll send the *2001 Boxing Almanac And Book Of Facts*—a $4.95 value—absolutely free!





Order *The Ring* now & save ...

$19 off the cover price!

Clip Coupon and Send to: **London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121**

THREE WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

☐ The Ring (6 issues) for $19.00. **That's a savings of nearly $5.00!** (LRNZ)

☐ The Ring Extra (6 issues) for $28.50. **That's a savings of more than $7.00!** (LRSP)

BEST VALUE! $19.00 SAVINGS! FREE *RING ALMANAC!*

☐ All 12 issues of The Ring for $41.00! (LRNG)

YOUR NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ APT._____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

PHONE_____

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_____

Expiration Date:____/____
MO/YR

Signature:_____

THIS GIFT IS FOR _____

ADDRESS_____ APT._____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

Please Check One Box:

☐ Please send *The Ring Almanac* to my address.

☐ Please send the *Almanac* to the gift recipient.

For Canada and all other countries: $23.80 for The Ring ($34.00 airmail); $33.30 for The Ring Extra ($43.50 airmail); $50.60 for the combination ($71.00 airmail). International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Offer expires December 31, 2001. *The Ring Almanac* premium will be sent only for orders postmarked by the expiration date and only for 12-issue subscription orders. Please allow up to two weeks for gift notices to be sent and eight weeks for first magazine and *Almanac*.

5736/08-01/4c

AQ1HBX